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THE GERMAN MOLE

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THE GERMAN MOLE

A STUDY OF THE ART OF PEACEFUL PENETRATION

BY

JULES CLAES

EDITOR OF THE ANTWERP DAILY PAPER 'LA MÉTROPOLE'

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

J. HOLLAND ROSE, LITT.D.

LONDON

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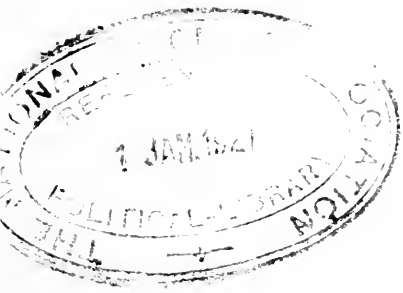

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INTRODUCTION

M. Jules Claes, the editor of the well-known Belgian journal, *La Métropole*, has for some years been collecting evidence as to Germanic efforts to effect "a pacific penetration" of Belgium. The phrase first came into general use with respect to French endeavours to dominate Morocco, and it implies a gradual transformation of an inferior by a superior civilisation. In that sense the Pan-Germans have used and applied it to the Flemings whom they sought to draw, or drive, into the Teutonic fold. Their efforts are here described by one who has had unequalled means for watching them. The commercial results were so successful that one wonders why Germany was not satisfied with the supremacy which she acquired before the last great venture which has placed everything at hazard. As the author of *J'accuse* has well pointed out, German commerce and industry had won triumphs that seemed beyond the dreams of avarice, and nowhere had

the resources of neighbours been more skilfully exploited than at Antwerp.

M. Jules Claes has tracked "the mole" along his burrows, and shows us the methods of operating: the German clerk working hard—to gain a knowledge of his employer's methods and *clientèle*—for a mere pittance, the balance of which was made up to him by the "Hamburg Association for Business Clerks" or a similar body; the German newspapers and pamphlets started in Belgium, doubtless by funds procured from the *All-Deutscher Verband;* the German schools, which kept up national feeling among the children even of the naturalised; and the insidious use made of the Flemish movement so as to foment the discords which, unfortunately, were already at work separating the Flemings from the Walloon, or French element, of the population. The racial, religious and social divisions in Belgium have long been acute. "*On critique toujours en Belgique*," said a Belgian refugee in Cambridge to me; and this questioning, restless, race-divided, party-ridden community formed just the ground suited for German manœuvres. While the little nation was dreaming about the language ques-

tion, the race question, the religious question, the social question, or the merging of all these in some grandiose internationalism—the Eastern Colossus had undermined the whole fabric and believed that at the first touch it must fall in.

That a "peaceful penetration" preluded military occupation can, I think, be doubted by no one who, while reading this book, bears in mind the teachings of Treitschke and Bernhardi, and notes the incidents which accompanied the conquest of Belgium. The infamous proposals of the German Chancellor to the British Ambassador on July 29, 1914, made it clear that Germany coveted Belgium, but intended, for the present, to respect the neutrality of Holland. The reason is obvious. Not only did Belgium offer the shortest and easiest road to Paris, but her natural resources would feed great armies. Above all, her land was a necessary base for the conquest of Northern France. Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Ostend and Nieuport were not only desirable in themselves, but their hinterland joined the hinterland of Calais and Boulogne. Of late German patriots have loudly proclaimed that the North Sea is not a world-sea, because Great Britain hems it in! They must have a

harbour on a world-sea open to the ocean. That harbour is Boulogne.

There, then, is the chief object of all this preliminary burrowing. Antwerp in itself is a rich prize; but Germany had almost Teutonised it before the war. Tournai, Ypres, Lille are, however, still more desirable, for they are the keys to Boulogne. In this connection the reader should peruse the work of M. Léon Daudet (*L'Avant Guerre*), which reveals similar methods of penetration used by Germans in the north of France. Warning voices have also been raised as to the danger of German commercial supremacy in certain British possessions, especially Singapore.

It therefore behoves us to examine carefully the evidence contained in this volume. Here and there British readers will, perhaps, deem the note too staccato. The censure on German immigrants will appear extreme to those who know only the settlers of an earlier date, who (as at Manchester) have loyally identified themselves with their adopted country. But a profound change has come over the German character since the accession of William II, who has infected the once peaceable Teutons with his

own restless ways and overbearing notions. It is of the German settlers of the new type that M. J. Claes discourses. Perhaps also the reprisals which he recommends against German trade may seem excessive. But not one Englishman in a hundred has seen the horrors of war. M. J. Claes has seen them, and he knows by bitter experience that they resulted from the heedlessness and blindness of his countrymen—aye, and of Frenchmen and Britons as well. The free peoples of the west of Europe have been living in a fool's paradise, and we ought at last frankly to realise that our miserable party feuds, our reluctance to set the nation above party, our easy cosmopolitanism, our slothful reliance on *laissez-faire* as the last word in political science, have brought about a state of things highly favourable to a people which, with equal secrecy, skill and tenacity, has prepared to found its supremacy on the trusting good-nature of its neighbours.

As to precautionary measures which may be needed against German traders in the future I prefer to say very little. Obviously, if Germany is soundly beaten, and if her political organisation becomes adapted to peace rather than to war, fewer precautions will be necessary than

are called for in this volume. If she emerges victorious or ends the struggle by a stalemate, a general boycott of her goods may be resorted to; but such a measure is attended with very great difficulties. A cool survey of the present situation, in the light of the evidence of predetermined aggression to which M. J. Claes has added his quota in this volume, will convince every unprejudiced observer of the terrible danger to the higher interests of civilisation which must result from the triumph of the Teutons. It would involve not only political, but industrial and intellectual servitude. They have prepared to dominate every sphere of human activity, with a more than Napoleonic thoroughness. Life under the ascendancy of Napoleon a century ago would have been Purgatory. Life under that of William II would be Hell.

J. Holland Rose.

Cambridge,
August 4, 1915.

THE GERMAN MOLE

PART I

I

LES YEUX QUI S'OUVRENT

THE substance of this short contribution to the story of the German invasion of Belgium appeared in various articles in the Antwerp journal *La Métropole* during August and September 1914.

These articles, the object of which was to denounce the treachery of the Germans, who had been our guests, seem to have interpreted so well the general sense of indignation that they were received with marked favour and approval.

We have not the slightest wish to pride ourselves on the hundreds of congratulatory letters we received. What we wish to emphasise is that the peril resulting from the blind confidence we had placed in the Germans resident in our

country, was spontaneously realised in the minds of all.

The matter of these articles was supplied, to a considerable extent, by the public themselves, whose eyes had suddenly become opened. This fact is a notable testimony to the correctness of the opinion here maintained: "No country can, with impunity, grant to Germans the same advantages it grants to other foreigners; since Germans employ the advantages derived from hospitality for ends that are hostile to the country that grants them shelter."

The reader will recognise that the means used by Germans in obtaining the confidence of other nations are the same everywhere. They are so amazingly identical, that it would seem as though they were stamped with the seal of official approval. To all appearance there is nothing suspicious about them. It is from the fact that they are grouped together and mutually related, and from the resultant disturbing influence, which is ever increasing, that we are justified in concluding that there is a definite system and aim behind it all. The means employed consist in the complete penetration of the foreign country by the most varied organisms of politics and of

commerce, of finance and of religion, until the time comes when, without suspecting the fact, the entire country is under the thumb of Germany.

Perhaps no country has suffered from this slow but sure poisoning to the extent that Belgium has. Still, we know of others, which, though they have not had their eyes opened like Belgium, have none the less been undermined, and to such an extent as to prevent the public being warned of the danger. And the reason why public opinion is not warned of the danger, is that silence has been observed in these countries, as it was in Belgium.

In some of these countries, whether at war with Germany or not, a certain faction—for it cannot be given any other name—solicitous of its own interests, is deliberately betraying its country, sacrificing its duties thereto in favour of the interests of Germany. Being all-powerful, it imposes on certain organs of public opinion either silence or an attitude favourable to Germany.

In the terrible crisis through which we are now passing, silence may well be a crime. In every country influenced by Germany, there exists a

muzzled Press which dares not speak out: there are influential men who know the truth and yet maintain silence; and so the masses of the people remain ignorant of the danger.

We hasten to say that we do not mean to accuse of venality either men in public life or the organs of public opinion. Strictly speaking, silence is frequently observed as a result of clumsy compromises and indirect interests.

Did any one think of raising his voice, in Belgium, before the outbreak of war, against the excessive share that the Germans were taking in public affairs? A few timid remarks, indeed, were heard from time to time, but there was never anything approaching unanimity, which, by enlightening public opinion, would certainly have prevented Germany from entertaining any illusion as to the real feelings of the Belgian people regarding herself.

For how do we know but that, in the request which Germany made to Belgium regarding the free crossing of the country by her armies, she was inspired by a hope based on the feelings of friendship she thought she had noticed, and on the German influences that had been in operation for a score of years?

A rudimentary knowledge of psychology, if such were the case, would show that the deception and disappointment of the Germans was the cause of their implacable rage in plundering Belgium.

Long had the attitude of the Belgians been such as to warrant the Germans in believing they could do as they pleased with Belgium, and lo! Belgium rises as one man against the invader and ruins the projects he had formed for crushing France!

To the native brutality of the German mind, this attitude of Belgium is one that merits punishment. We know how horrible this brutality can be. And may not the sudden explosion of hatred against England be traceable to the same cause? Had not Germany grounds for believing that England, undermined like Belgium by the same pro-German influences, would maintain a passive attitude?

These are errors of judgment peculiar to the German mentality, which forgets that, though money and individual interests may win over certain influential persons and momentarily deceive the masses left in ignorance, still, the nation is sovereign master of its own

destinies and will have the last word in the matter.

If the Belgian Government, against all expectations, had yielded to the demands of Germany, there would still have been a profound upheaval of the people who had remained uninfluenced by German methods, and would themselves have barred the way against the invader.

In Belgium we have erred through ignorance, through kindness of heart. In treating the Germans as friends, as we treat other people who enter our country, we have been abominably deceived and betrayed, and that by the very nation on which we had lavished honour and esteem. Is not hospitality a law that binds in civilised lands? And this has been our excuse. The awful death-struggle of Belgium, however, has taught us an invaluable lesson. In future we shall be on our guard against the machinations of the German mole. It is our ardent prayer that other countries, especially England, with whose destinies our own land is so closely linked, may profit by our bitter experience.

II

THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

Of necessity we must include along with those who now keep silence or have in the past remained silent, the really disinterested admirers of Germany.

It must here be recognised that Germany, in many respects, was deserving of being set up as an example.

But now that the aim and object of her divers activities is known, since that monstrous ambition of hers for a world-wide domination has been revealed, a domination so often spoken about, though every one pretended not to believe in it; since this war has shown the German, and all Germans, to be what they are, have we still any right to proclaim our admiration for Germany?

From scholar to soldier, with the whole industrial and commercial world in between, after the ridiculous manifesto of the ninety-three celebrities of Germany, after the nameless atrocities and works of destruction committed by unbridled bestiality, no civilised man can admire such a country. She must be dreaded in every

domain of life, as much after the war as we ought to have feared her before the war.

To concede to Germany the right to be treated like another nation is to assure for her advantages which she will misuse. This would be a repetition of the error of which not only we ourselves, but all those nations over which Germany aspires to dominate, have just missed being victims.

We will enter more explicitly into this part of the subject at the conclusion of the book, after showing Belgium to have been a field of experiment for what has been called the pacific invasion of the Germans, but what was, in reality, the pacific method of enslavement applied to all peoples, great and small, to England and Italy as well as to the United States, Holland, Denmark and Russia.

Before entering upon the facts that have enabled Germany to acquire so great an influence in Belgium, without the Powers that guaranteed Belgian neutrality in conformity with the Treaty of 1839 suspecting anything, truth demands that we express the varied feelings of the Belgian population, in the unanimous chorus of approbation awarded to *La Métropole* for its campaign

entitled "L'Avant Guerre."[1] Amongst those who approved us were many who saw, only too late, that Germany had long and skilfully prepared for treason, and were dismayed at having confided in so many Germans who seemed to manifest real sympathy for Belgium, and more especially a sincere interest in the prosperity of Antwerp. There were those who regarded the attitude of *La Métropole* as one of revenge against powerful or unprincipled rivals, who had been too often favoured by the extraordinary complaisance of official administrations. This complaisance had become so marked that the big manufacturers had brought out ten years ago a special organ entitled *L'Industrie Nationale*, which set forth how the German enterprises were being treated by us and how the Belgians were systematically boycotted by the public administrations in Germany.

We find the proof of this lack of patriotic feeling in the fact that in 1912 the various government offices had to beseech the authorities under their control to reserve their orders, as far as possible, for their own country.

[1] Analogous with the writings of Léon Daudet, in France, on the same subject.

Finally, amongst those who trusted in *La Métropole* were a few far-seeing readers who had long been uneasy regarding the extent of German sympathy and influence in Belgium, and who dreaded the issue.

These did their best to get those around them to share their fears, but they were invariably rebuffed and discouraged at the task before them.

Above all, no reliance could be placed on the press in Antwerp, more particularly where the German advertising *clientèle* was all-powerful, distributing its favours according to the extent of German sympathy manifested by the various journals. Not that we dream of incriminating the attitude of the Belgian Press, which is quite free from suspicion; but we were living in peace, the general impression was that war was henceforth impossible, and besides, to be quite fair, we must recognise that the Germans were singularly clever in winning sympathy, in emphasising their activities and finally in lulling the susceptibilities of the public.

This fact is so certain that the publication of such a book as this would have aroused general disapproval before the war. It would have had against it the great mass of those whose interests

were one with those of the Germans, of all the influential half-breeds of Antwerp and elsewhere.

Besides, such is the inevitable lot, and has been ever since Cassandra, of all who disturb the general enjoyment of life in times of peace. Their revelations seem successful only after the event, when painful experience has given them sanguinary confirmation. And even then they are not sure of impunity. At the present moment the author of this book has proof of the troubles and worries that await him at the hands of the irreconcilables; for in Belgium, as elsewhere, we have to reckon with those who, even in the worst atrocities against their country, find justification for the enemy; with those who, incapable of initiative or effort of their own, see nothing but a black future, because relations with Germany will not be what they were before, and who hate such as wish at all costs to help their country to put herself on guard against a possible relapse into the errors of the past.

It is these who, instead of facing the enemy, denounce "dealers in frightfulness," and who, even in Antwerp, under German insults, predict that Antwerp can do nothing without Germany.

It is these who call it a crime to widen the ditch of hatred dug between the two countries . . . by the Germans themselves.

III

THE PISTOL AIMED AT ENGLAND'S HEART

The aim of this work, however, is something more than simply to show the Belgians what are the dangers they must in future avoid.

Thank Heaven, their eyes are now open, and, whatever interested persons may do, they will, for a long time ahead, find questions of monetary interest sinking into insignificance beside memories of blood and murder. But there is one question we must at once ask of our two powerful neighbours: France and England.

Why were not these two countries roused by the increase of German political influence in Belgium? They might well have interfered in accordance with the Treaty of 1839.

A few cries of alarm were raised in the French press, but only from the military point of view, *e. g.* the articles of General Langlois in the

Temps. It was somewhat similar in England. But in neither country was there any real suspicion of the danger of the moment.

We do not know if anything was done in government circles, but, in any case, the Belgian government does not seem to have been requested by the sponsors of Belgian neutrality to check the German encroachments in Belgium.

And the reason why this book may prove of interest to the French and even more so to the British lies wholly in the following question: "*May it not be that the German influence in these two countries has become so powerful that they too, like Belgium, have been muzzled?*"

Were the English—who in this great war have seen the vital importance of Antwerp to themselves and the danger in the fact of this city being in the hands of a great Power—rendered uneasy by the efforts of Germany, before the war, to convert Antwerp practically into a German port?

Much has been written to prove that the Germans desired this. This war, which has enabled German politicians and economists to fling aside the mask, shows us that Antwerp and the rest

of Belgium have always been the object of Germany's desire.

Maximilien Harden, in *Zukunft*, October 17, 1914, writes—

"A noble Germanism must here conquer new provinces. . . . Antwerp, not opposed to, but in conjunction with Hamburg and Bremen; Liège alongside of the munition works of Hesse and Berlin; Cokerill allied with Krupp; Belgian iron, coal and tissues under one management. . . . From Calais to Antwerp, Flanders, Limburg and Brabant, right beyond the line of the Meuse fortresses: all Prussian."

This was also the kind of language gently meted out to the Belgians before the war. Such Prussian lack of delicacy and tact was constantly being shown by the German upper classes in Antwerp! With coarse impudence they forced the Belgians to ask themselves if it would not be better for them to belong to a great nation, or else to enter the "Zollverein."

Thus clumsily did they expose what we now find confirmed in the Reuter telegrams of December 9, 1914, in London, and repeated in April 1915. In the *New York Times* we read that Herr Dernburg, the financial agent of the

Kaiser in America, has formulated the conditions of peace. They were published in a special article of *The Independent*.

"1st. Germany would not consider it prudent to take European territory, but she will make slight frontier changes for military reasons and will occupy such neighbouring territories as constitute a weak place in her armour.

"2nd. Geographically Belgium belongs to the German Empire. It commands the mouth of the greatest German [*sic*] river. Antwerp is an essentially German port. That Antwerp does not belong to Germany is no less an anomaly than if New Orleans and the mouths of the Mississippi were excluded from Louisiana, or New York remained English after the War of Independence; besides, the present situation of Belgium is due to her own fault. The country had become the vassal of England and France. If then, on the one hand, it is not 'probable' that an attempt will be made, on account of its non-German population, to incorporate Belgium in the German Empire, like Bavaria, Würtemberg and Saxony, at any rate, it will form part of the German customs union, like Luxembourg.

"3rd. As Belgian neutrality has been shown

to be impossible, it must be abolished, and the ports of Belgium must for all time be set free from English or French invasion.

"4th. Great Britain having shut in the North Sea, a 'free sea' must be instituted. England's theory that the sea is her domain and that all the seas belong to her, as far as the territorial waters of other Powers, cannot be tolerated. Consequently the Channel coasts in England, France and Belgium must be made neutral even in war time, and the doctrine of Germany and the United States, by which the right of seizure of private property on the high seas shall be recognised as it is on land, should be guaranteed by all nations."

We might multiply such quotations from German papers, but the Press of all countries has undertaken to spread abroad these declarations sufficiently to render it useless to prolong this chapter. It has been proved that the object of the entire German activity in Belgium before the war was to create a trend of opinion in favour of Germany. It has also been proved that the violation of Belgian neutrality was really the preliminary of a war of conquest.

If we had given a little more attention to

German writings before the war, this fact would not have surprised any one.

Why was the danger not better known? Because the interested countries had been infected by the German gangrene, as Belgium had been. The means by which this had been effected arise from a system which may be enunciated as follows—

"*The intellectual and economic conquest of the world by Germany must precede and facilitate the world-wide domination of Germany.*" This constitutes the "Weltpolitik."

We may add that, at the rate at which things were going, Germany would speedily have attained her end, had it not been for the war. The world would have been enslaved without perceiving the fact.

In his impatience to realise his programme of universal domination, the Kaiser has let loose a terrible war, and it is our business to learn its lesson. The check received by Germany in finding Belgium and England in her way, explains both her desperation in ravaging our unhappy country and the reason for such sentiments as Lissauer's "Hymn of Hate" against England.

If there are any English yet in doubt regarding Germany's intentions, we hope they will not have to go through the bitter experience of having their eyes opened as ours have been to German brutality and to the realisation of the German peril. We hope, too, that they will adopt those measures after the war which we all ought to have adopted before the war.

When driven from Antwerp by order of the military governor, the "distinguished" Germans who had up to this point said to their Belgian friends: "Antwerp *should* be German," with threatening gestures found the audacity to say to the self-same friends: "*Au revoir,* when we come back Antwerp *will* be German."

This is an additional proof, though evidently a secondary one, of premeditation. But how did *all* these Germans, without distinction, know, at the outbreak of war, *i. e.* at a time when only the desire of Germany to cross Belgium was officially known, that Germany was in reality engaged in a war of conquest?

IV

DEUTSCHLAND ÜBER ALLES

The inferiority of us "poor civilised" beings, who know nothing of the benefits of Kultur and the laws of Germanism,[1] lies in the fact that we imagined the German people to be a people like ourselves, obedient to the same religious concepts and moral laws. It might have been so, perhaps, at one time, when Germany enjoyed the same intellectual illumination as other peoples, though keeping intact all the time a substratum of vanity and brutality. But things are not so nowadays. The numberless writings of her philosophers and polemists, the extraordinary declarations of her clergy and their special conception of the German God are full of significance.[2] Discoveries of this kind have

[1] We cannot too highly recommend the clear definition of Germanism given by Professor Émile Boutroux in his recent pamphlet entitled *L'Allemagne et la Guerre*. Paris, Librairie militaire, Berger-Levrault, 40 centimes. English translation: David Nutt, London, *6d.*

[2] Extract from the *Berliner Tageblatt*, March 11; account of a lecture by Dr. Max Lenz, Professor of the University of Hamburg—

"A great change has come about in the German nation.

been particularly abundant during the war. Owing to the certainty of final victory in Germany, we have witnessed an altogether characteristic unfolding of the German soul.[1]

Nevertheless, especially in England, where there is often a certain amount of disconcerting sentimentality, there are many who cannot

---

Profound feelings of every kind, and even the worship of God have become nationalised. . . . And when Protestant soldiers sing Luther's hymn: 'A strong fortress is our God,' their Catholic brothers certainly agree with them. Before the war, Karl Lamprecht, one of the most famous historians of Germany, said unhesitatingly: 'Who would dare to deny that there is now a Germanic Christian God, and that He sometimes manifests Himself to the foreigner as a mighty and jealous God?'"

Herr Adolf Deissmann, Professor of the University of Berlin, in his pamphlet, *Der Krieg und die Religion*, writes—

"The German God, the national God! We have before now heard theologians maintain that the national God belongs to a lower degree of religious history, but this is a widespread error as is revealed by the present war."

[1] The *Aberdeen Free Press* has published the following extravagant declarations of Professor Adolf Lasson, of the University of Berlin—

". . . We are morally and intellectually superior to all; we have no peers. It is the same with our organisations and our institutions. . . . Our Army is, as it were, the image in miniature of the intelligence and morality of the German people."

Woltman had already said the same thing: "Germany has attained the highest summit of civilisation, thanks to the most perfect organisation of the German brain."

imagine human beings capable of committing atrocities like those that have dishonoured the name of Germany.

Civilised nations recognise this sentiment, for it is peculiar to such. In doubting the possibility of crime, we thereby declare ourselves incapable of committing it. Hearing accusations brought against a people which, in all external respects seemed civilised, we hesitate to believe because we can conceive of no reason for the crime.

Now the crime has taken place, and it finds its *raison d'être* in the doctrine expressed by the odious sentiment "Deutschland über Alles."

It is not our intention here to define Germanism. The Germans themselves have undertaken this, and once again we are to blame for not taking alarm before now at such doctrines.

If the organs of public opinion had enlightened us on this teaching, we should have learnt that the Germans of the present generation, like their elders, have been nurtured, from their school days, on this doctrine of superiority and of the right to a world-wide domination.

Whereas civilisation tends towards the realisation of universal brotherhood, and *kindness is the characteristic of civilised man*, the German,

the elect-man, regards it as his duty to ensure that the whole world obtains the benefits of Kultur; and, just as we impose our civilisation on savage peoples, so Germany has the right to impose her Kultur on us. For, do not forget, German Kultur is superior to ordinary civilisation!

In an excellent little English book we have found the following teaching given to the young: "There is, however, a false and a bad side to patriotism, which it is well to remember. You will sometimes hear people talk as if it were always right to support what is done by Englishmen in foreign countries, whether what they have done be right or wrong, only because those who have done it are English. This is wrong in itself, and can only lead us into troubles and difficulties; for it is plain that if Englishmen think it right to overlook bad actions merely because it is an Englishman who has done them, it is equally likely that a Frenchman or a German will do the same thing when his own countrymen make mistakes or commit faults." [1]

[1] The *Citizen Reader*, for the use of schools, by H. O. Arnold-Forster. Cassell & Co., London and Paris.

We do not think that German teachers, imbued with the precepts of Germanism, could teach such things, which at best are useful to people who are merely civilised! To suppose that a German is capable of acknowledging himself wrong to a foreigner, would be to repudiate the doctrine which regards every German as a superman. Can a superman be in the wrong? Is he not privileged to do anything he likes?

Instead of teaching respect for citizens and for the rights of other peoples, geography of this kind is taught in Germany—

On page 189 of the classic geography of Prof. Daniel, the chapter is headed—

"Small States of 'German nationality,' Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg."

In the text we read: "These five States are either entirely or for the most part inhabited by Germans (!). But after a lapse of time they separated from the State Confederation of the former Empire of Germany to which they belonged (?) during the Middle Ages."

It is quite clear that this reminder of the time when Belgium and Holland belonged more or less to the Empire is of special significance both

to the author and to the Germans who learnt geography from his book. Fifty years ago we were reminded in somewhat similar terms that Schleswig-Holstein and Alsace-Lorraine once formed an integral part of the Germanic Fatherland.

In certain atlases of the well-known firm of Justus Perthes, of Gotha, representing Greater Germany, we find the whole of Belgium, Holland, French Flanders and almost the whole of Switzerland claimed by Germany. Post-cards reproducing this fantastic ethnography are sold throughout Germany.

Schoolmasters teach that these countries must sooner or later fall into the hands of Germany, and that the whole world will finally become subject to German law. They do not fail to say that it is the duty of every good German to favour the speediest possible realisation of this future. Is not their motto "Gott mit uns"? The German must bring about the economic conquest of the world. The German in foreign parts must have one sole aim in life: "Deutschland über Alles." All means are good that have for their final aim the greatness of the German Fatherland.

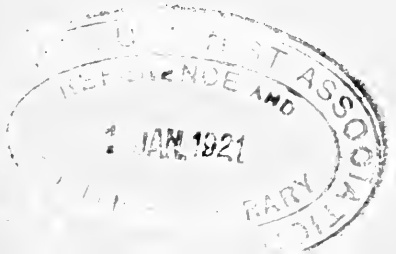
Such is the teaching with which a child's tender brain is moulded. In no other country than Germany would one dare to inculcate the doctrine that "the end 'sanctifies' the means."

Let us at least say that with such a doctrine a nation must attain to mighty results, although the morality it implies is pregnant with peril.

Looking at the forces put in operation for the methodical conquest of the world's markets, let us never lose sight of the teaching of the German schoolmaster. Then we shall understand the reason for the extraordinary devotion of the German clerk you have engaged, we shall know why such and such a German export firm carries your goods more cheaply, why this particular German bank discounts your bills at so favourable a rate of exchange, or why that rich German offers you his financial support.

The German is always excused for every infringement of the rules of universal morals, since he co-operates in the end common to all Germans. If the German clerk you have engaged steals the list of your customers and passes them over to your German rival, he will have performed a pious duty; if the German administrator, a perfect gentleman, whom you introduce

into your company, finally turns you all out and brings his own countrymen into the business, he is doing something patriotic; if the German bank which discounts your bills on the most favourable terms, does it in order to get to know—just simply to get acquainted with—your customers, then it has served the highest interests of the German Fatherland. If the German commercial traveller introduces into your country the shameful practice of the "Schmiergeld" (bribery), do not express astonishment, he is not conscious of the baseness of such a proceeding, but he has won one more victory for German competition. He is a good German!



PART II

I

THE GERMAN CLERK AND THE ECONOMIC SUBJECTION OF BELGIUM

PERHAPS astonishment may be evoked that we should regard as political tools those Germans whose only thought, apparently, was to carry on business in the most peaceful fashion imaginable.

There is a ready response to this superficial remark: no other country has peopled the whole world with so many representatives of its economic activity as Germany.

It will also be said that Germany is overpopulated, forced to send her children out to other lands, since she has so few colonies.

This is the argument which Germany has advanced for a double purpose: to justify her recent imperialistic designs, her claims to an increase of territory and to colonies which Bismarck would not have at any price, and also to

explain the extraordinary and sudden dispersion of the Germans throughout the world, including the colonies of other lands.

Now it is untrue that Germany is overpopulated. There are immense stretches of land, whole provinces of Germany, very thinly inhabited.

What duplicity there is in this German argument when used to justify the claims of Germany on Belgium, the population of which is far denser than that of the Empire!

When one is confined within too narrow frontiers, how can one think of annexing the country whose population is the densest in the world, after Saxony?

No; the multiplication of Germans in every part of the world has had no other aim than economic conquest, for political purposes.

Certain countries have been penetrated more than others by what we may call the German peril; some because they offered less resistance or because German influence was brought to bear especially upon them. Amongst these are certainly Belgium, England, Italy and Turkey, to mention Europe only; Belgium, which could not oppose invasion because she was a loyal and

neutral country, to borrow M. Maxweiler's happy phrase; England, so accustomed to the easy possession of the world's markets, a Free Trade country and traditionally somewhat unyielding in commercial transactions; Italy because of her ports on the Mediterranean; and Turkey for the many reasons with which every one is acquainted.

One of the most powerful, active and important wheels in the great machine which Germany sent forth to conquer the world is an extremely small one: the German clerk. He is the real microbe of the German epidemic. This comparison is a just one. The German clerk presents himself to you in the most innocuous shape; *e. g.* he is recommended because he wishes to learn your language or business, and as one good turn deserves another, he asks for no salary. On the contrary, if you wish, his father will take a financial interest in your business. Thus you are saddled with two Germans, and as you have contracted business and perhaps friendly relations with the father, you cannot fail to give the son every chance of success. And you do this at the expense of your fellow-countrymen. Then, too, he is so active and serviceable,

the first at the office and the last to leave, and you extol his good qualities everywhere. To you, as to so many others, the German clerk is the model employee.

May we come and see you a few years later? Then you will not have a single compatriot worth anything in your firm; the principal ones, with your consent, will have been replaced by Germans. And no doubt German capital will have assumed such importance in your affairs, that some day you will have the very distinct impression that you have not yourself become replaced by a German solely because the name of your firm still possesses a certain commercial value. You are still a sign-board—and you may esteem yourself lucky!

"Oh!" says some incredulous business man, "we have not always to do with rich men's sons who seek a situation with us to our detriment; we have known poor clerks come and offer their services gratis, as volunteers for a limited period, polishing off the work of three ordinary clerks. They were worthy of all praise, accepting the most unpleasant work, feeding and boarding economically, though careful of their appearance. We had to pay them in the end, but even then

they were so unexacting, compared with our compatriots, that it was greatly to our interest to keep them. Besides, holidays did not count with them, and they were quite willing to stay at work whilst our own clerks were enjoying themselves. After all, business is business."

Good. But have you noticed, as you may have more strikingly in Antwerp than elsewhere, the successive disappearance of the old well-established, honourable firms? Have you remarked that they have been replaced by German firms? If so, then you may find in the German clerk one of the main causes of these redoubtable changes.

By your indifference you have contributed to the subjection of your own countrymen. The German clerk has been working in favour of his. His special foible was setting the office in order too frequently, rummaging in the waste-paper baskets and amongst lists of customers' addresses.

This is how he is depicted by M. Carteron, Consul-General of France, in a report published in the *Moniteur officiel du Commerce*, March 27, 1897—

"A light-complexioned, spectacled youth, sober and patient, working for little, or even nothing

at all; this is the type of clerk that, *in Antwerp as in many other towns, has largely contributed towards German supremacy*. The method of his intrusion here is the same as elsewhere. He came with a scantily lined purse but much determination; his modest claims have given him access to a large business firm; gradually his capacity for work and his business instinct, along with his knowledge of languages, have brought him to the front. He takes advantage of this to penetrate into the firm's secrets and make himself indispensable. Then he ousts the Belgian or English clerks and replaces them by Germans. His next step is to enter the family and become a partner. Or else, if he wants to start on his own account, *he, too, sets up a business, utilising the connections of his former master*. The banks allow him big credit; he succeeds. If need be, he becomes a naturalised Belgian, but he remains German at heart and continues to work in the interests of his country, which are also his own. Feeling that he is supported by his Government and by what I will call the national *esprit de corps*, he soon attains to a first-class position in a town where he finds his principal rivals to be the Englishman, a "drainer" of goods rather

than a coloniser, the Frenchman, an individualist, unwilling to risk his capital and easily discouraged, the citizen of Antwerp, more frequently a speculator than a real business man.

"*And so the face of Antwerp has changed during the last twenty-five years; many old well-established firms have disappeared because they could not instil solid traditions into their heirs, nor protect themselves in time against the underhand practices of the clerk from beyond the Rhine.* Those firms that subsist are compelled to reckon with these immigrants, *so free from hampering prejudices,* whose patient efforts make up one of the most suggestive chapters in this history of the 'Struggle for Existence.'"

The numerical importance of these German business clerks was such that two associations of German clerks had a branch at Antwerp and succeeded in establishing, in one of our similar large associations of Antwerp, a very active section which manifestly did all it could to oust our own men.

The more important of the two German companies was the "Hamburg Association for Business Clerks," which, in addition to finding its members employment, organised evening classes

and lectures and, by monthly payments, maintained volunteers who worked for nothing.

Whilst German clerks were of one mind in ousting their Belgian colleagues from all lucrative posts, the behaviour of German employers towards Belgian clerks contributed to the boycotting of our own men. No doubt there were honourable exceptions to this rule. But even in limited liability companies, Belgian by name and participating in the advantages of the Belgian law, the entire staff was German. The Belgians then could fill only the lower posts, and the women employees had frequently to resign themselves to accepting the most odious bargains.

German boasting has calmed down a little of late years, for, in spite of everything, dull protests were beginning to be heard.

About this time, *La Métropole* courageously advocated the taxing of foreign clerks. We regarded this as all the more legitimate since German clerks took advantage of the fact that they were not liable to service in the Civic Guard, which had to work on Sunday mornings and help in the morning correspondence.

We will here accuse no one, but we will say

that this and other propositions caused us to be accused of xenophobia. All the same, it was manifest that the slow pacific invasion of an already overpopulated country like ours was being effected only to the detriment of our compatriots. Evidently the danger of German penetration was a real one, and could not be compared with the Belgian penetration of Germany.

We held to the following simple logic: a hundred thousand Germans in a small country like Belgium might be far more harmful than a hundred thousand Belgians in a great country like Germany.

The objection will be urged that we have painted the picture too black. We answer: have the Germans usurped in Belgium a place which rightly belonged to Belgians? Have they acquired a great preponderance there to the detriment of Belgian interests? They have. Then do not point out paltry exceptions whereby to invalidate our opinion.

A big Antwerp merchant, who put the greatest confidence in one of his German clerks, had a disagreeable surprise some time before the war. The matter was related in the papers—

"Monsieur," said the clerk, with a self-satisfied air, "I have much pleasure in handing you this bank-note which I found in an open envelope."

"Where did you find this envelope?"

"In your waste-paper basket."

"Many thanks, but I don't care to have any one rummaging in my waste-paper basket; will you be good enough to draw your month's salary and never enter this office again?"

The extremely interesting activity of the German office-clerk must be connected with that of the German business representative and the various methods of German competition; for here again we see the well-directed vanguard of the economic invasion of a country. Just as German societies of employees introduce their members, wedge-like, into the most private firms, giving pecuniary aid to volunteer clerks, so the great German firms and trusts arm their representatives with every kind of weapon, clean or foul, for vanquishing competition.

"That's business" will be the answer we shall receive. And, indeed, it would seem, generally speaking, that there would be more advantage in our borrowing German methods than in slan-

dering them. Unhappily, we do not adopt these methods, either at home or abroad.

Certainly there is no fault to find, in principle, with Germans who live abroad and form themselves into societies for sociable or other purposes. All the same, the attentive observer must see that when they group together under various pretexts the Germans abroad pursue a double object, and that in virtue of Government instructions: first, to maintain the Germanic spirit of attachment to the Fatherland, and to bring back to it the emigrants or naturalised Germans; and second, to assure for themselves all the material and moral, and even political, benefits of a close solidarity.

We will add: is there any other country besides Germany that has so methodically prepared, in its own special schools, the education of its agents abroad, whether they be clerks, consuls or business men? The German banks, on their side, stimulated by advice from high quarters, have done their best to maintain effectively their conquest of foreign markets.

II

THE GERMAN COLONY IN ANTWERP

The numerous German clerks of Antwerp were the primary elements of a large and powerful colony, grouped into numerous associations, which helped to justify, in the eyes of the inhabitants of Antwerp, the legend of the extraordinary importance of our commerce with Germany and the German Hinterland. How often have we heard this German Hinterland mentioned, until we almost all came to believe that it was one of the causes of the very existence of Antwerp itself!

The English, even more than the Belgians, have often had to reflect as follows: How is it that in the harbour of Antwerp, where the English flag is far more in evidence than the German, England has so little influence, whereas the German colony, on the contrary, is all-powerful?

We are well aware that the English are more interested in colonising their own possessions than in invading the Continent. Historical and geographical reasons, however, compelled them

to be on their guard against this unwonted increase of German influence in Antwerp. No more than ourselves, apart from a few far-seeing Belgians, did they suspect that the legend of the German Hinterland was fabricated by those who desired to convert Antwerp into a German port.

Who were they?

First of all they were those interested persons who, by exaggerated and disquieting manifestations of friendship for our town, had succeeded in creating profound sympathies in Antwerp.

These persons occupied themselves with many things that concerned us exclusively; but they had surrounded us with such a network of flattery and attention of every kind that we forgot everything else, including the importance to our powerful foe of the harbour of Antwerp itself.

To attain their aim they offered us every complacency, the acceptance of which we to-day must bitterly regret. They took up certain positions to which no Belgian could ever hope to attain. It was a complete abdication on our part, the recognition of a superiority which was an empty one on the whole. It was as if we had amongst

our own people no persons worthy of honours or even respect.

This self-abdication was carried so far that no sooner was a public subscription opened, or some fête organised, or even the international exhibition of Antwerp in 1920 thought of, than their help immediately came into demand.

The birthday of Attila II was celebrated in Antwerp with more solemnity and uproar than that of our own King! It was not the Belgians who made all this uproar; it was the Germans and those who had become naturalised Belgians; but alas! too many Belgians, assisting at these fêtes, which seemed to them really cordial, helped the Germans to think that we liked them, and that nothing would perhaps be more agreeable to us than to bear German arms! The newspapers rivalled with one another in giving lengthy accounts of the Emperor's birthday festivities. In return, the Germans participated actively in our national fêtes. It surpassed in ostentation anything we could do in theirs. One could not help hearing such expressions as: "I am at home in your country," and "Your affairs are mine." If you persisted you might even have heard them say: "It would be a great

advantage to you if you were Germans; better belong to a great country than to one so small!"

Thus did Pan-Germanism, which had for long years been penetrating into Antwerp and Belgium, betray its designs. These impersonal "they" were the capitalists who had arrived with the clerks, unless the latter before now had been transformed into the former. "They" represented German or English or Belgian maritime lines, German or English insurance companies. "They" introduced themselves into Belgian banks and Germanised them until the time came when the German banks could found branches in our country. "They" obtained possession of our munitions works, such as the Fabrique nationale d'Armes de Guerre de Liége.

For instance, at the end of July 1914, we find one of these German potentates of Antwerp figuring on nineteen boards of management of Belgian companies, one of his sons on seven, another on five, another on eight, a relative on eight, and so on.

"They" found strange assistance in Belgians of German origin, Belgians of several generations standing, but who, beholding the increasing might of the German colony and the solid

advantages to be obtained by joining it, were eager to become Germans again.

The case is known of an old family in Antwerp, of German origin, one of whose members had erected in a prominent place in his salon, not the portrait of our King, but the bust of William II.

During this present war we ourselves received a letter signed by a "von," a naturalised Belgian, who in this letter proclaimed his loyalty towards Belgium, and whose Belgian son was serving as a lieutenant in the German army!

German influence was such in Antwerp that the following scandal was witnessed with reference to the construction of a dry dock. Tenders for the contract for the work having been opened and having proved favourable to a Belgian company, known to be competent, new conditions were made and fresh tenders invited. This time it was a German company that obtained the contract. It was a matter of such importance that the work was retarded a whole year, owing to some ridiculous accident or other.

In every domain, private and official, it was Germany industry that was favoured. This was anything but good for business morality, for

the practice of "Schmiergeld" aroused suspicion in the minds of many.

An arbitrator of the tribunal of commerce recently confessed to us in London that the decisions in favour of Germans were generally suspected, though given with the greatest impartiality.

III

SOCIAL SOCIETIES

What contributed to make the German colony of Antwerp especially a State within the State, enjoying all our rights, though with none of our duties, what inspired a distinguished contributor of *La Métropole* in his masterly studies on the "Métèques" (*i. e.* about the politician foreigners), was that the Germans, both rich and poor, met in numerous and powerful companies, grouped in a "Verein" (or Union), which gave the watchword. Better than that, any Belgian suspected of not submitting to them was "marked out" by the "Verein"!

This happened to *La Métropole* during the fêtes connected with the "Triumphal Entry" of our sovereigns into Antwerp. We boldly

stated then that desertions had taken place amongst the crew of the German war vessel that had come to Antwerp for the occasion. This "crime," along with others, brought us indignant letters and threats. In our reply we maintained an attitude of complete independence. For this audacity we were informed that *La Métropole* would be "marked out" by the "Verein," with the result that advertisements and contracts made by the Germans with the journal were immediately cancelled!

Of what did these German Societies of Antwerp consist? There was a Benefit Society subventioned by the German Government; a Society of Mutual Assistance called "Hand in Hand"; the Germania, insuring suitable lodgings; a "Verein" for lodging ladies and girls; a "Seemansheim" (Home for Sailors); a Traders' Association for promoting commerce between Antwerp and Rhenish Prussia; two Old Soldiers' Societies; six Singing Societies; a Gymnastic Society; a Society for Hand Workers; a Ladies' International Club, with English title; and even a Society whose object was the maintenance of German humour! And many others.

In reviewing the German social activity in Antwerp, we must say a few words regarding the influence exercised by the Germans in the world of art. It was affirmed that the New Concerts Society was a German enterprise, that the Variety Theatre itself was not free from the virus, that the "Contemporary Art," whose real object was to compete against the old and respected Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, was tainted with Germans. Lastly, the Germans had cast their eyes upon the Flemish Opera, which they wished, sooner or later, to become an important centre of Pan-Germanist propagandism.

IV

GERMAN SCHOOLS

Under cover of our far-reaching constitutional liberties, we have seen established in Antwerp, in competition with our own schools, several German schools, the most characteristic and important of which is undoubtedly the "Allgemeine Deutsche Schule," whose programme is that of similar schools in Germany.

"In the girls' section," we read, "the plan of study, on the whole, agrees with that of similar schools in Germany. In the boys' section the object of the study of German is to maintain and extend the use of the language, at the same time preparing the pupils, by a thorough study of French and Science, to enter a higher educational establishment. There are two optional classes for the special study of Latin and Flemish. The school in question is subventioned by the German Government and by the colony. It has been working for thirty years, and is under a board of management composed of the chief members of the colony.

"It has a library, and organises literary, scientific and geographical conferences delivered by specialists from German universities. It has also founded a pension fund for the professors, and an assistance fund for widows and orphans."

With the wonderful German talent for self-advertisement, with their all-sufficing conceit and our own simplicity, it soon became a matter of common hearsay that the German school of the rue Quellin in Antwerp was superior to any of our own, that really we had no capacity for

teaching at all, and so on. And so several of our countrymen, falling unsuspectingly into the designs of Pan-Germanism, sent their children to this school!

The fascination of the German Kultur was such that all our snobs, out of a mere wish to go against public opinion, professed a deep admiration for the high artistic conceptions of the Germans. In their eyes nothing could be compared, as far as architecture was concerned, to the pavilion erected recently by Germany at the World's Exhibition in Ghent.

In every direction attempts were made to influence our mentality. Designers and architects came from Germany to spread amongst us the heavy style of architecture that flourishes beyond the Rhine.

The only man reputed to know anything about town æsthetics was the famous Mr. Stubbe. No one could build dry docks better than the German firm who undertook to build the big dry dock in Antwerp, whose sad fate is now well known.

Even our gardens and public parks were copied from those of Germany—"Germany over all!"

A pretty scandal was set on foot when *La Métropole* published a complete list of the subscribers to the German school. This included several Belgians, who regarded it as a duty to set forth their good intentions, based on the idea that they were helping forward a charitable work. But there was never any question of supplying free instruction at the Allgemeine Deutsche Schule!

The Antwerp people who had become closely connected with the German families established in Antwerp, will doubtless by this time be amazed at the ideas of Dr. Gartner, the headmaster, as contained in a recent report, in which he enumerates the names of former pupils now serving against Belgium in the German army, and of well-connected young ladies now wearing the badge of the German Red Cross.

This same Dr. Gartner, a bigoted Pan-Germanist, in his official reports spoke of this school as the finest centre of "Deutschtum" in Antwerp!

It was he who thought he had discovered a proof of premeditation in the present war, from the fact that the Belgian military authorities had examined his school for the quartering of troops.

He returned triumphantly to Antwerp during

the occupation and celebrated in his school the "Kaisersgeburtstagsfeier" (Emperor's birthday fête). His pupils came to their classes in military head-gear.[1]

[1] To give some idea of the anti-national education which the small Belgians received in this school, we give a programme of the fêtes on the occasion of the "Kaisersgeburtstag."

FESTORDNUNG: PROGRAMME OF FESTIVITIES

1. Vierstimmiger gemischter Chor (mit Begleitung des Schuler-orchesters): Deutschland (v. Hoffman von Fallersleben), W. von Baussern: Four-part mixed choir (accompanied by the School Orchestra), "Germany."
2. Vorträge: Recitations.
   Bitte an den Kaiser: Request to the Kaiser.
   Kaisersgeburtstag: The Kaiser's birthday.
   Im grossen deutschen Reich (v. L. V.): In the Great German Empire.
   König Wilhelm in Charlottenburg (v. Hesekiel): King William at Charlottenburg.
   Schwäbische Kind (v. Uhland): The Swabian Child.
   Wenn Du noch eine Heimat hast (v. Träger): If Thou hast still a Home.
   Zwei Veteranen von Mars-la-Tour (v. F. von Köppen).
   Meinem Sohn (v. Th. von Rommel): To my Son.
   Germanen-Aufruf zur Römerschlacht (v. einem Primaner): Summoning of the Germans to fight the Romans.
3. Vierstimmiger gemischter Chor (mit Begleitung des Schuler-orchesters): Four-part mixed choir: Gebet während der Schlacht (v. Th. Körner): Fr. H. Himmel: Prayer during the Battle: Dem Kaiser Heil! (v. Dr. Macke-Ahrweiler, C. F. Boening): Hail to the Emperor.
4. Ansprache des Direktors: Address of the Director.
5. Gemeinschaftlicher Gesang: Heil dir im Siegerkranz! United Anthem: Hail, O Victorious One!

Though the list of subscribers to the German school would appear to be of purely local interest, we give it below, convinced as we are that our readers will find in it some suggestive names.

We ourselves note the names of Germans who took refuge in England during the war and were not interfered with, probably because of their commercial relations with English people.

Is it not curious to note that Germans expelled from Belgium by the Belgian Government found refuge in a country at war in defence of Belgian independence! More than this, a symptom showing how impudent the Germans can be: Belgian societies and bodies in London were invaded by people whose names figure in the following list—

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

	fr.		fr.
R. Ackermann . .	30	H. Albert von Bary .	500
H. A. Aeby . . .	50	Alb. von Bary, jun. .	100
Jul. Aeby . . .	50	Georg von Bary . .	500
W. Bachmayer . .	50	Mar. de Bary . .	300
Société Badoise . .	50	Carl de Bary . .	50
R. Banspach . .	50	Ed. de Bary . .	25
E. Bantlin . . .	40	Herm. de Bary . .	25

What an education is revealed in this programme, which is full of allusions to fighting, to the "grossen deutschen Reich," etc.! Is it not a crime to bring up children in such an atmosphere?

	fr.
Max Bauermeister	100
Ch. Bauss	100
P. Bechdolt	20
Dr. Hans O. Behrens	20
Otto Berns	25
M. von Bernuth	100
Aug. Bieling	25
W. Blaess	100
Ch. Bloch	50
R. Boecking	2000
H. Boecking	50
C. Bodewig	300
Gust. Bormann	100
Alb. Born	30
Frau Th. Bracht	1000
Victor Bracht	50
Thiel Brahm et Co.	100
Braunchsweig Gebr	50
E. Brugmann	20
N. Buchsweiler	100
Ed. Bunge	500
Dr. Busemann	50
Joh. Crouse-Stahluz	25
A. Davidis	50
E. Davidis	50
Frau E. De Jongh	20
Z.-W. Dekkers	50
Bernh. Diamant	50
L. Diehl	100
Franz Diercke	50
B. Dosse	100
Alex. Dreiss	20
Ernst Eiffe	500
Caesar Eiffe	50
J. Eisemann	30
R. Elbaum	25
Carl Faber	30
H. Fasting	50
O. Felsenstein	20
H. Fester	100
Gustav Fischer	25
W.-F. Flemmich	20
C. Flender	50
Forst. Buchhdl	100
Erich Friedeberg	50
W. Friling	50
H. Fritsche	50
Ch. Friz	50
Frau D. Fuhrmann	2000
Peter Fuhrmann	2000
Heinrich Fuhrmann	500
Richard Fuhrmann	100
Otto Garrels	300
A. Geerkens	25
Dr. Otto Gaspey	100
Dr. Goret	25
Fried. Gerling	100
K. Glanz	50
H. Goebel	25
Richard Goette	50
J. V. Gosen	25
Frau Fr. Grein	20
L. Grimm	25
C. G. Grisar	500
Emile Grisar	100
Max Grisar	50
W. Grote	500
B. M. Gruetering	100
Heinr. Haim	50
Herm. Haim	50
Ad. Hallwachs	50
Alb. Hallwachs	25
Fr. Haerlen	25
Dr. Ern. Hartwig-Hoboken	50
C. Hasenburg	50
Gustav Hasse	50
A. Haug	20
Kronacker	50
Alf. Havenith	200
Herm. Heidebroeck	100
Joh. Heincks	25
Ferd. Helmers	50
Ph. Hemer	25
Fritz Hemer	100
Walter Herbig	25
Max Hermann	100
Th. Hermann	20

	fr.
Ferd. Hessel	30
S. Hirsch	50
Frau L. Hoeckle	20
E. Honigmann	100
Paul Horowitz	20
M. Huffmann	100
Frau Hugo Hutz	100
W. Huverstuhl	250
A. Ilgen	25
C. Ingenohl	200
Frau M. Ingenohl	100
Ed. Itschert	100
Ferd. Itschert	25
Jahn et Manning	25
Paul Jappe	20
B. Kahn	25
H. Kamps	100
Frau S. Karcher	100
Ed. Karcher	200
H. Kohring	30
Joh. Konitzky	100
Eug. Kreglinger	200
Frau Carl Kreglinger	100
Paul Kreglinger	100
Theodor Kreglinger	20
P. Karcher	100
Ernst Karcher	300
Rob. Kaussler	50
Hermann Kaussler	25
Felix Kesseler	25
G. Kirsten	20
H. Klein	50
Max Knauff	25
C. Koellein	50
H. Kuhn	50
C. Kunestler	25
Gust. Kuerten	20
H. Kurth	100
Max Kuesel	20
Frau Langsdorf	200
Alfred Laporte	100
Frau C. Leber	50
J. Lindenborn	20
Ludw. Lœwenstein	50
W.-H. Lueps	100
Ch. Luth	25
W. von Mallinckrodt	1000
Frau H. Marsily	250
Herm. Marsily	20
W. Marsily	200
Gustav Martens	100
H. Maschmeyer	50
H. Mayer	100
O. Meurer	20
Leo Meyer	50
H. Michelis	100
Frh. von Mirbach	100
H. Muehlbauer	25
Frau C.-J. Mueller	100
B. Mueller-Stiftung	500
Ernst Mund	200
Th. Nottebohm	500
James Nuerenberg	30
Baron A. von Ohlendorff	200
Rob. von Ohlendorff	25
Ed. Opitz-Habis	30
Frau H. Osterrieth	200
Alex Osterrieth	25
Max Osterrieth	20
Ernst Overberg	20
R. F. Peltzer	100
A. M. Petersen	100
Fräul. H. Pfeiffer	200
Carl Müller	100
Franz Müller	200
Ch. Pittsch	100
L. Pit	25
Willy Plog	25
Dr. A. Preetorius	100
E. L. Prinz	100
Carl Pungs	200
C. Rabbow	200
Dr. P. Rabbow, Goettingen	50
H. Rabbow, Stettin	50
L. Rakemann	25
C. Randel	100

	fr.
M. J. Rang	100
E. Rausch	100
Frau J. Rautonstrauch	1000
G. Reiche	30
Ed. Reinbold	500
Franz Reinemund	25
Richard Rhodius	1000
Walter Rhodius	200
Alfred Rhodius	50
Felix Rhodius	50
H. Rieth	200
F. Roggen	25
J. Rohlsen	25
W. Ronnefeldt	25
Frau L. Rudolph	50
Paul Rueff	30
G. Ruff	20
C. Salomon	25
Georg Samuel	100
C. Schaedtier	50
W. Scheibler	100
G. Schindheim	50
F. Schlomer	50
E. Schmaizigang	25
Frau C. Schmid-Kreglinger	100
E. A. Schmid-Kiesewetter	50
Carl Schmidt	30
Paul Schneider	50
Frau Dr. Schnitzler, Coeln	50
H. Schoetensack	100
Alfred Schuchard	200
Frau J. Schuall	100
G. Schulz	20
Ed. Schwenn	50
Eug. Schwerdt	105
W. Siebert	100
Fr. Speth	500
H. Speth-Bauss	20
J. Springer	20
H. Staackmann	50
J. Stahl	50
L. Steisel	50
A. Stetter	50
L. Storch	50
H. Stumpf	25
O. Thalmann-Berhn	150
L. Tietz	50
Frau P. Tolkowsky	25
P. Totte	100
E. Tritschler	25
Dr. F. Tutein	50
Franz Ubberlohde	100
Paul Ullmer	25
Ch. van der Haegen	20
H. Van der Stuckon	100
Ch. Van Leckwyck	600
W. Villinger	75
Paul Vogel	25
A. Waehrer	25
Otto Walle	50
N. Weber	50
Frau Victor Weber	300
Ch. Weissmann	20
D. Wellner	40
R. Weyhnmann	50
C. Weysser	25
Frau F. L. Wilekens	40
H. Wiener	25
J. Willemes	20
H. Wittich	100
Rob. Wolfers	100
Dr. A. Wolff	20
R. Wolff-Callens	50
E. Zeller	75
M. Zunsheim	20
Total fr.	33,275

V

GERMAN POLICEMEN

A few years ago the wide-awake inhabitants of Antwerp were painfully surprised to find that there had been inaugurated in their midst the Vigilance Society "Waak en Sluit." To this Society were at once accorded privileges which other similar associations had not been able to obtain. It was especially noted that authority to arm its staff was permitted!

The officers of the association wore swords and long German tunics. An illustrated pamphlet showing a group of "watchmen" at Cologne, which was issued, left no doubt as to the origin of the society. This is what the pamphlet contained—

VIGILANCE SOCIETY

Waak en Sluit

"*Cologne is the mother-town of the 'Waak en Sluit' Vigilance Societies. Similar societies on the same lines as this institution have been formed of late years in almost all the great centres. Apart from our own, societies of the*

same nature were soon seen forming in several towns, which, as to uniform, insignia and in other ways, imitated the appearance of the 'Waak en Sluit' in order to seem as though they were one with our societies, though certainly they have nothing in common with it, since ours have all been organised and established on the same footing as the one in Cologne.

"At the present time our societies are working at Augsburg, Berlin, Beuthen, Bonn on Rhine, Breslau, Düsseldorf, Eberswalde, Gleiwitz, Halle, Hamburg-Altona, Heidelberg, Kattowitz, Kiel, Cologne, Königshütte, Copenhagen, Crefeld, Königsberg, Laurahütte, Lubeck, Mannheim, Munich, Mysiowitz, Nürnberg, Posen, Ratibor, Schwientochlowitz, Stettin, Strasburg, Swinemünde, Vienna, Wurzburg and Zabern."

In Antwerp, Brussels and Liége also an important service of auxiliary police has been subsidised by German societies!

VI

The Philosophical Movement

There were needed only the philosophical institutions and the Press to complete this perfect German social organisation in Antwerp. These were actually at hand.

The Germans had their Catholic Church in which German sermons were preached on Sundays, whereas the Walloons, who were far more numerous in Antwerp than the Germans, had all the difficulty in the world to find an opportunity of listening to a sermon in French.

The Germans had two Protestant Churches, one with a free school annexed. In a neighbouring commune, at Hoboken, inhabited by numerous Germans occupied in the industrial establishments of the place, religious services were held for their edification.

Another thing which seemed strange to us Belgians, accustomed on the Continent to see freemasonry violently attacking everything religious, was to find amongst the subscribers to the "Deutsche Evangelische Protestante Gemeinde,"

the German masonic lodge "Hansa," whose very name recalled that of the ancient league of free towns.[1]

We must also mention the singularly effective help which German propagandism found in the Belgian Catholic clergy, both in the Walloon and in the Flemish part of the country.

In the latter the Germans skilfully exploited the anti-French sentiments of the clergy, especially of the country clergy who drew comparison between moral (!) Germany and shameless, subversive France. The Flemish clergy were shown the danger which their flocks would incur through the diffusion of the French tongue, "a vehicle of revolutionary, anti-Christian ideas, the instrument of an unclean literature, emanating from that centre of pestilence, Paris." Of course they carefully stifled all allusion to the repulsive scandals and the erotic industries of Germany. German hypocrisy was quite equal to the task of exaggerating false accusations against French morals and of exalting German virtues. German

[1] In Pan-Germanist circles, indeed, they have exploited the Hanseatic character of the town which Antwerp formerly possessed, and certain facts permit of the conclusion being drawn that the Germans did all they could to revive in Antwerp the memory of the Hanseatic League.

virtues, indeed! Go and speak of that in Paris, where 74 per cent. of the women inscribed on the register of the "brigade des moeurs" are German! Ask the medical men, who are well aware that all the articles used for anti-conception practices come from Germany! But why insist? Has not the moral worth of Germany been sufficiently demonstrated during the course of this terrible war? And yet we could not, at one time, attack the Germans nor defame them before the Belgian clergy. The admirable (?) tolerance enjoyed by clergy and Catholics in Germany had been extolled before the Belgian clergy, just as though the "Kulturkampf" had never existed in Germany. Catholic organisations, both political and social, were highly spoken of; enthusiastic articles were published regarding the annual congresses of German Catholics, to show that the Government had adopted the right attitude. The tolerance of the German Government was so instinct with paternal solicitude! There was no country anywhere more religious than Germany, whereas in France . . .!

Ah! France was the abomination of desolation! Separation of Church and State, the dis-

solution of religious societies . . . all contributed to intensify the contrast.

But what of things at the present time? Is the German masquerade sufficiently exposed? What must the Belgian Catholics—and especially the Belgian clergy—think of the German God and the blasphemies of the Kaiser, of the numberless crimes and the shameful deeds of sacrilege committed by the Kaiser's soldiers? Where is this people which is so religious? And, just at this moment, we might well add: Whereas in France . . .!

Yes, indeed, in France, beneath an appearance of superficiality, we have found a substratum of religious feeling which has shown itself in a most admirable and universal uprising of Faith. This is no invention; all the journals representing every shade of opinion have notified the fact, and the *Kölnische Zeitung*, speaking of the aspect of Paris, that centre of perdition, was obliged to confess on March 26, 1915, that "any close and attentive observer of the life of Paris must acknowledge that it is a city of work and not of pleasure, that the people have remained sane and self-possessed, and that what has disappeared is simply a life of frivolity

beneath which lay concealed a basis of solid virtues."

Whereas Berlin-Sodom, at that very time, was rebelling against the order, imposed by the military authorities, to close night-establishments at one o'clock a.m.!

PART III

I

POLITICAL ACTIVITY—PAN-GERMANISM

UNDER this head we will deal only with Pan-Germanism in reference to Antwerp; consequently there is no need to define the doctrine or to study all its modes of action. All we have hitherto said of the German social organisation in our great port may be applied to Pan-Germanism.

THE ALLDEUTSCHER VERBAND (THE PAN-GERMAN UNION)

Though timid at first, Pan-Germanism soon began to make headway. A branch of the "Alldeutscher Verband" established itself in Antwerp quite openly and without any one protesting.

The avowed object of this Society is to strengthen the bonds that unite the Germans

residing in foreign countries to the Fatherland. In reality its purpose is to prepare the economical subordination, and eventually the political dependence of those countries in which they work.

The Antwerp section was presided over by M. H. Albert von Bary. Some uneasiness was caused amongst us by the branch having shown too much political activity, and as a sign of protest, M. von Bary and the whole of the committee resigned. The newspapers at once congratulated M. von Bary and his colleagues on the correctness of their attitude. But in point of fact the "Alldeutscher Verband" was not dissolved at all; it continued to exist in secret, awaiting better days.

Some years later, indeed, we again heard of this ill-omened group. The overweening conceit of the Germans again showed itself, and we find that M. Pritsch, the consul-general of Germany, and his wife took part in meetings of the "Alldeutscher Verband." This having raised some protest, a sudden stop was put to the publicity of this restless "Verband."

No fresh incident arising to disturb Teuton propagandism, the Germans of Antwerp came to believe that Belgium was ripe for the

"Schlag" (blow). They must have sent their Government favourable reports on this matter, congratulating themselves that the words uttered by the German Minister at Brussels on the occasion of the fêtes of 1905 at Antwerp (when Belgium celebrated the 75th anniversary of its independence) had had a pacifying effect on us.

The Belgian lion was but a harmless little dog that would not bite, and our continual obsequiousness somewhat justified the deep insult contained in the German ultimatum: "You shall be paid, but we must pass." And they were so certain of passing through, they had made such arrangements that we are compelled to see in all their preparations and the methodical organisation of espionage the sure and unquestionable proof that Germany had long decided on our invasion.

The threatening writings of German military authors, especially those of Bernhardi, may be regarded as nothing more than threats. This cannot be said of the patent and irrefutable facts which have been revealed, which we know as yet but imperfectly, but which testify before the civilised world to their long-fixed resolution. The foolish and clumsy pretext of the dread

of Belgium's invasion by France, which was pleaded by Germany, falls to pieces like a house of cards.

We will finish this chapter with a significant little anecdote.

It was in March 1898. The training-ship *Stein*, back from Haiti, where she had been with the *Gneisenau* to settle a quarrel, put in at Antwerp. As soon as the ship was alongside the first significant incident occurred. An armed sentinel stood on the quay! This was a grave breach of the protocol, since no armed foreign soldier could be tolerated on neutral territory.

It takes a merely intelligent mind, however, to see that the commander of the *Stein* must have had reasons for thus being mistaken regarding our sentiments and our dignity.

The present war shows us that this commander's error was somewhat like the error that any other good German would have committed.

The sentinel was removed and the affair seemed to be forgotten, when, a few days later, Captain Oelrich, the commander of the *Stein*, significantly spoke in the *Salle des Fêtes* of the Zoo-

logical Gardens of the ANNEXATION OF BELGIUM BY GERMANY!

One may imagine the effect produced by those words!

The burgomaster and other authorities along with the Belgians present left the room. Emissaries were immediately sent to all the journals for the purpose of hushing up the incident. It was pleaded that Captain Oelrich must have gone mad; the sun at Haiti had been too powerful, etc., etc. But the affair could not be hushed up; it was spoken of a great deal and much alarm was felt.

From that time confidence in Germany was shaken, and there was a dull feeling of suspicion in the hearts of all patriots. Henceforth all that was done by the Germans was attentively and anxiously watched. The hidden reason of certain apparently munificent actions was understood, but they no longer deceived the masses of the people.

II

THE GERMAN NEWSPAPERS OF BELGIUM

One of the most German of all the newspapers supporting Pan-Germanism in Belgium was the *Brusseler Zeitung*, which appeared in Brussels in 1910 in view of the World's Great Exhibition.[1] With that exquisite good taste which is wholly Germanic, this journal was adorned, above its side-note, with the German imperial eagle. Is not this a significant fact?

Another journal appeared in Antwerp two years later, the *Deutscher Anzeiger für Antwerpen*. It counted amongst its founders all the notabilities of the German colony of Antwerp, M. H. A. von Bary heading the list.

In our issue of September 22, 1914, almost

[1] It is well known how considerable was the success won in this exhibition by the Belgian, English and French divisions, exhibiting together. The German exhibit was in a separate building which was unattractive in appearance, and did not meet with public appreciation.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that in March 1915 the *Petit Journal* of Paris published a telegram from Havre, in which its correspondent said that it was rumoured in Belgian circles that the Germans had instigated the burning of the Anglo-Belgian pavilion, which was completely destroyed by fire while in its full splendour.

on the eve, so to speak, of the bombardment of Antwerp, when we proposed to publish the list of these names, the censor struck out the paragraph in question, leaving only the following passage—

"The director of the journal, Richard Ebinghaus, thus supported by the Germans and the naturalised Belgians, was able with impunity to inform his advertising clients as follows: '*You are well acquainted with the rôle played by the Germans in Antwerp. To enter into relations with them means to increase your business*,' etc."

The same year appeared the *Belgisches Tageblatt*, which was even more arrogant and disputatious, if that were possible, than its predecessors. In August 1914 events showed that the creation of these journals had been the crowning point of the German work in Belgium.

Another extremely violent organ, dealing mainly with our petty quarrels, which it vigorously encouraged, was spread throughout the country by the Pan-German associations. This was the *Alldeutsche Blätter*, which, at the last elections, dealt violently with our internal affairs, going so far as to advocate the creation of a league grouping together the two thousand

Flemish societies, a league the object of which would be to scatter discord amongst the Belgians, and bring about the separation of the Walloon and the Flemish provinces.

We will pass over in silence such incitements as were contained in a number of reviews, such as the *Germania*, etc.

To this activity of the German Press in Belgium must be added that of the journalists, correspondents of German papers read in Belgium. A whole swarm of them invaded our land, especially Brussels.

These gentlemen lived lavishly, received from their journals—so they said, at all events—salaries which turned the highest paid Belgian journalists green with envy, and expended a degree of activity in obtaining their information out of all proportion to the importance of the events themselves. Regrettable to state, the Belgian journalists were easily seduced by the honeyed ways of these would-be *confrères;* they took in hand their interests whenever necessary, and, in a word, proved themselves most obliging. It must be confessed, in favour of our Belgian *confrères*, particularly those of Brussels, that the example came from high—sometimes very

high quarters. But who would have believed it?

To these would-be German correspondents many doors were opened which remained obstinately closed against the Belgian journalist. A high functionary would refuse to receive a mere Belgian reporter, but would take very good care not to keep waiting, even for five minutes, Herr X, the correspondent of some Germanic sheet or other.

On several occasions, too, the fact was ascertained that the Belgian journals had to get news of importance concerning Belgium from the German Press itself. Was it not a sure means of introducing German papers into Belgium, to insure for them in this way more reliable information than the native Press of the country? Moreover, it does not require any prophetic instinct to state, as we did in *La Métropole* of September 6, 1914, that perhaps "we shall find some of these *confrères* amongst the Teuton functionaries whom von der Goltz-Pasha is arranging to instal in the Belgian Ministries."

Indeed, we discovered afterwards that the cream of the German Press correspondents in Brussels returned to that town, either with von

der Goltz or with von Bissing, and that they were attached to the passport service, to the censor's department, etc. ! [1]

Have the Belgians been so naïve, or rather so honest, as not to suspect such dark designs in others? Let our English and French readers, however, see what is taking place in their own countries before blaming us.

More particularly, however, have we to warn the English how the Germans make use of the

[1] In this connection we give the following amusing sketch from a Belgian journal published in Holland, of the Brussels correspondent of the *Voss Gazette*, suddenly converted into a censor—

"Then you do not know who this Wertheimer is? In times of peace he was a newspaper correspondent, writing on the Liberal side in the *Voss Gazette*, and on the Government side in Wolff's 'laboratory.' The war turned him into a censor. Brussels journalists have not forgotten the extraordinary appearance of this *confrère* of theirs, the head of a knight covered with a redoubtable fiery-coloured mane, with little ferreting hypocritical eyes, such a head as belongs to the sort of men people are wont to say they would not care to meet on the outskirts of a forest.

"But though Julius Wertheimer has a disquieting appearance, he attends to his functions with the most comical gravity. In times of peace he symbolised for all of us the German Press; now, in Brussels, it is his mission to extol the German Government in the most mendacious and venal fashion. He is the Anastasia of Herr von Bissing. And he uses scissors and red pencil with the utmost seriousness.

"All he wanted was a uniform. And he got it! Try to imagine a German censor without a uniform!"

Press and the news agencies. We have only to refer them to the following report which Sir E. Goschen, British Ambassador at Berlin, addressed on February 27, 1914, to his Government.

REPORT

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FOR some time past a variety of schemes had been ventilated in the Press with the object of improving German prestige abroad. It was said that in certain foreign parts Germany was being persistently and wrongfully abused, that she could obtain no fair hearing because the Press of those distant countries was in hands hostile to any German enterprise, and because the telegraphic agencies serving those countries were equally biassed. An *Association for World-Commerce* was to have remedied this evil by a persistent pro-German propaganda in the countries most bitterly complained of. It was hoped that the necessary funds could have been raised by contributions from all the trading and industrial societies interested in the German export trade, and, in view of the supreme importance to Germany of her export trade, it was intended that agents of the Association should be sent and stationed abroad to assist the exporting industries by timely advice and an active policy generally, such as private individuals could pursue more effectively than officials.

The opportunity for realising this scheme

seemed to offer itself under the following circumstances. A plan was being prepared to start a German-American Economic Society. Similar societies with an application to other countries already exist—*e. g.* a German-Argentine Society, a German-Canadian Society, a German-Russian Society, etc. The foundation of a German-American Society had been advocated in connection with the revision of the American tariff, which gave German industries new chances of an intensified export to the United States. As was natural in any matters dealing with German-American affairs, M. Ballin, of the Hamburg-America Line, was approached to take the matter in hand. He consented. Under his inspiration the idea of a German-American Society was abandoned and the idea of a World Society was substituted. A preliminary meeting was held at which the various German-foreign societies were represented; there were present also representatives of the "Central Association of German Industrials," and of its great rival, the "Federation of Industrials," as well as of most of the leading industrial firms. Internal dissensions, however, soon appeared, and several important members sent in their resignations.

The details of the foundation were to have been settled at a meeting convened for February 26; to-day the whole scheme stands prorogued *sine die*. If it is ever realised its plan will have to be considerably altered. In the meantime the original plan of a German-American Society has been revived. This society is, in fact, to be constituted in Berlin early in March in the form originally intended.

It would seem strange had M. Ballin so readily accepted defeat. The explanation lies in the fact

that, at the request of very highly placed persons, his interest has been transferred to another more delicate and more or less secret organisation, devised to undertake those duties of M. Ballin's would-be "Weltverein" which concerned the German reputation abroad.

A short time ago, a meeting, of which the secret has been well kept, was convened in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of which Dr. Hamann, the notorious head of the Press Bureau of the German Foreign Office, was the originator and at which the Foreign Secretary himself was present. The meeting was attended by members of the leading industrial concerns of this country: the North German Lloyd, the Hamburg-America Company, the Deutsche Bank, the Disconto Gesellschaft, the Allgemeine Electricitätsgesellschaft, Siemens and Halske, the Schuckert Works, Krupp, the Cruson Works, etc. They formed a private company with the purpose of "furthering the German industrial prestige abroad"—a conveniently vague purpose. The company will be financed by private subscriptions and by a Government grant. The sum at first suggested as a necessary revenue from private subscription was £12,500, but the company present at the first meeting was so enthusiastic that it definitely promised annual subscriptions amounting to £25,000. The Government will add £12,500 per annum—the whole Secret Service Fund, in fact, at the disposal of the Imperial Foreign Office for similar purposes (*e. g.* for the payment of subsidies to certain papers abroad).

The company has entered into an agreement with the *Agence Havas*[1] that the latter will in

[1] NOTE.—Information since furnished to the Foreign

future only publish news concerning Germany if supplied through *Wolff's Telegraphen-Bureau*. The latter will receive its German news exclusively from the new company. The company intends to make a similar arrangement with Reuter's Telegraphic Bureau for those foreign countries in which Reuter controls telegraphic communications. If Reuter declines, the *Deutsche Kabelgesellschaft*, a smaller German news agency supplying telegrams from certain countries (*e. g.* Mexico) and working in agreement with Wolff's Telegraphic Bureau, is to be financed by the new company to run a service in competition to Reuter's.

All the concerns represented at the meeting have furthermore agreed to pay into the company's hotchpot the very vast sums, which they are accustomed to spend abroad for their advertisements in foreign papers. The total of this item alone is believed to be not less than £25,000 per annum—so the annual sum available for the purpose of the new company will reach a total of £50,000 to £75,000. The company will in future issue the advertisements of its members only to those foreign papers which publish German information originating exclusively from the new company, which is to be regarded as the only authentic source of information concerning Germany and all things German. This information they are to receive free of cost or at a nominal sum—so that the willing foreign papers will derive very material benefits from their collaboration with the company; viz. lucra-

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Office has conclusively established that such an agreement, whilst apparently intended by the German Company, was not in fact entered into, or indeed ever contemplated by the *Agence Havas*.

tive advertisements and free matter written in the language of the country in which the papers are published. The foreign Press is to be watched by the company's agents appointed in the various foreign centres. Any incorrect reports are to be telegraphed home and corrected by telegrams issued by the company. The countries in which the system is to be immediately inaugurated are chiefly the South American States and those of the Far East, but the system is to embrace all countries outside Europe. The German cable rates for Press telegrams are to be reduced in the interests of the new company.

It is difficult to say whether the evil which the new company is to remedy really exists, or exists to any perceptible extent, but it is certain that a very influential private company has been called into existence with every official encouragement commanding an enormous revenue for the purposes of a pro-German newspaper propaganda. Whether the evil exists or not—the money will be spent on secret service to popularise Germany abroad. It does not seem to have occurred to the promoters of the scheme that they are preparing the ground for a vast system of international blackmail—hardly a proper way to reach the desired end.

Extract from the "Deutsche Export Revue" of June 5, 1914

Our readers will remember that one of the items in the programme of the German Association for World Commerce was the establishment of a news service abroad on generous lines.

Whilst the other parts of the Association's programme met with hostile criticism as soon as they became known, the proposed service for the supply of news abroad was greeted with general sympathy, as such activity promised to have a useful effect on our foreign relations. The failure to organise the Association for World Commerce seemed unhappily to render it doubtful whether the organisation of the news service could be realised. It is all the more gratifying that, according to information which has reached us from well-informed quarters, the scheme for a German news service in foreign countries has by no means been abandoned, but that, on the contrary, an extensive organisation is actually doing work in the desired direction.

A German syndicate was very quietly formed a few weeks ago for the purposes of this foreign news service. It uses the organisation of a news agency already in existence; its activity is gradually to be extended over the whole globe. Its main object will be to reply in an appropriate form to the prejudiced news concerning Germany and to the attacks made upon her, and by the judicious publication of newspapers inspiring the necessary articles to spread abroad the knowledge of the true state of German industry and of Germany's cultural achievements.

We are in a position to give the following information concerning the organisation of the enterprise. It is presided over by a directorate, consisting of three men, viz.—

Privy Councillor von Borsig;
"Landrath" Roetger (retired); and
Herr Schacht, a director of the Deutsche Bank.

A special administrative board, the main duty of which it is to make suggestions as to the organisation and the methods of reporting, comprises among others—

Professor Duisburg, of the dye works, "Bayer";
Herr Hagen, of the Disconto Gesellschaft;
Commercial Councillor Hasenclever, of Remscheid;
Herr Hermann Hecht, of Berlin;
Director Heineken, of the North German Lloyd;
Director Helfferich, of the Deutsche Bank;
Director Huldermann, of the Hamburg-America Line;
Director Kosegarten, of the "Deutsche Waffen-und Munitions-Fabrik";
Herr von Langen, of the Disconto Gesellschaft;
Privy Councillor Rathenau;
Director Reuter, of the Maschinen Fabrik, Duisburg;
Director Salomonsohn, of the Disconto Gesellschaft;
Privy Councillor von Siemens;
Herr Edmond Bohler, Hamburg, etc., etc.

The management will be entrusted to two managers, Herr Asch and Dr. Hansen. The former has for years edited several foreign news agencies; the latter is known to the readers of the *Deutsche Export Revue* through a series of articles dealing with the question of a supply of news covering the whole world.

For the present the enterprise has taken the form of a loose syndicate constituted for three

years, which is, later on, to be replaced by a more systematic form of organisation. The annual subscription payable by the firms which are members amounts to a minimum of £50. It is a significant fact that the Imperial Foreign Office has voted a grant of £12,500 towards the expenses of the syndicate, provided the same amount is contributed by German industrial houses. As the subscriptions and the contributions by the latter already exceed the sum of £12,500, the contribution from the Foreign Office funds seems secured. As every firm subscribing a sum of £50 has a vote, or, rather, as for every £50 subscribed the subscriber receives a vote, it may be expected that the Imperial Foreign Office will have a powerful and decisive influence upon the management of the syndicate generally, and upon the development of the news service in particular.

We further learn that efforts are now being made to induce the joint German and Foreign Economic Societies to join the syndicate, as these societies embrace pre-eminently merchants and manufacturers interested in the German foreign trade. These societies, it is true, appear to be still divided in their opinion concerning the new enterprise—at least, so far no definite decision has been arrived at.

It is believed that an increasing membership will make it possible to establish a reserve fund out of subscriptions and voluntary contributions received, so that, later on, the interest of the reserve fund may suffice to defray the expenses of the news service. It is also hoped that the foreign Press may eventually be induced to pay for the news supplied. Finally, it is intended to send journalists to the various countries, who

are there to busy themselves in favour of German interests in the manner indicated above.

The task which the syndicate has set itself is in itself worthy of acknowledgment. But only the future can show whether the task can be accomplished in the manner indicated. We are of opinion that good results could be achieved, and perhaps with greater success, by utilising the German legations and consulates abroad, if ample funds for this purpose were placed at the disposal of the official departments. At the same time, the joint German and Foreign Economic Societies might well, as indeed some of them already do, work quietly for a better appreciation abroad of the state of German industry and of German cultural progress. The intended despatch of journalists we believe, however, in any case to be a mistake, as it would certainly soon become common talk in the editorial offices in the several places abroad that they represent a syndicate officially supported by the German Empire. If such things are intended, it would be better to fall back upon gentlemen who are already in touch with the respective editorial offices, and who could serve German interests without attracting so much attention as would journalists sent out for the purpose.

We must state that the Havas Agency published in the *Morning Post* of April 2, 1914, and in *La Métropole* of September 12, a conclusive denial or contradiction as regards the report of its agreement with the Wolff Agency. The London Press Bureau, on its side, made the following important declaration : "The manifest

proofs set forth by the Havas Agency have proved most conclusively to the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the affirmation contained in the recently published report—which had been sent to us by His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin—that the Havas Agency had agreed not to publish in future any news from Germany unless supplied by the *Wolffstelegraphenbureau* is inexact. It would appear that the German organisation wished to make such an arrangement, but the Havas Agency would not entertain such a proposal for an instant. It is with the utmost satisfaction that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is able to give publicity to this rectification."

III

A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WAR FUND

The Germans—and the naturalised Germans of Antwerp—on the occasion of the centenary of 1813, having opened a subscription for the purpose of strengthening the armaments of the Empire, in conformity with what had been done throughout Germany, published the following

appeal in the *Deutscher Anzeiger für Antwerpen*—

"To the Germans dwelling in Antwerp, on the part of Messieurs H. Albert de Bary [why *de*, when the son called himself *von?*], Georg von Bary, Richard Boecking, Théodor Brauss, Peter Fuhrmann, Otto Garrels, Johann Konitzky, Wilhelm von Mallinckrodt, Franz Mueller, August Fhr. von Ohlendorff, Richard Rhodius, Walter Rhodius, Heinrich Rieth[1] and Wilhelm Fhr. von Mirbach, as secretary of the present Declaration—

"The fêtes connected with the centenary of the rising of Germany are taking place at a time when our people are earnestly requested to keep strong and well armed, so as to be in a position to retain the blessings of a happy and prolonged period of peace.

"The Councils of the Empire and of the Prussian Diet are preparing to enact a law which, with a view to the maintenance and the strengthening of the German army, will call for

[1] The foreign consulates were also the objectives of the Germans; as M. de Bary was Consul-General of Italy, so M. Rieth was for a long time Imperial Consul of Russia. This latter used to show in his house, with considerable pride, a timepiece stolen from the French in 1870!

sacrifices that are very great, *though absolutely necessary*. True, the Germans in foreign countries do not come under this law, and we Germans of Antwerp rejoice that we are, in large numbers, under the protection of the Belgian King and Government. Still, this should not prevent us, *at the present time*, when a sacrifice is demanded from all the Germans at home, from also doing our duty towards our dear country by proffering voluntary gifts, the purpose of which will be the maintenance of our military power, and of the honour and respect due to the Fatherland.

"We, the undersigned, declare ourselves ready, each according to his means, to make a voluntary gift as a contribution to the above-mentioned purpose of military defence, and to place such gifts at the disposal of the Government of the Empire.

"We beg all the Germans in Antwerp to join our Declaration, which will be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Empire, with all the names of the subscribers.

"At the same time, it is allowable for each individual to send, for himself, his subscription *as a voluntary contribution to the war fund* to

the Imperial Treasury in Berlin, which has been authorised by the Chancellor of the Empire to accept these gifts, or to the secretary, co-signatory of the present letter. In the former case, be so good as to inform the Chancellor of the Empire at the same time of the amount of the contribution.

"*There is no need of a lengthy explanation of this appeal.* All our readers, without exception, have followed, in the Council of the Empire, the course of negotiations on the questions of armaments; they know that the idea of supplying the milliard asked for, in contributions paid down out of hand which would mainly affect big incomes, was well received by the representatives of the people. The generation of 1913 will not remain behind that of 1813 in willingly making the sacrifices asked for.

"'The two great benefits,' said the Chancellor in his last great speech, 'which we wish to obtain by these means are the consolidation of the Fatherland and of peace. In this world such great benefits are not to be obtained without trouble; sacrifices must be made . . .' and '. . . I can assure you that I have received from all classes of society, rich and poor, as well

as from Germans in other lands, numerous testimonies of a lofty spirit of patriotism. Many were accompanied by voluntary gifts, including gifts from persons who, in accordance with the intentions of the law regarding war contributions, were not affected, but who regarded it as a glory and an honour to offer a voluntary sacrifice to the Fatherland.'

"It is quite natural that the Germans in Antwerp, who have never remained behind their compatriots when the well-being of their country has been at stake, should at this time also occupy a place of honour in the voluntary gifts they make.

"*It is no less natural that, in certain cases, several friends of Germany who, as the result of certain circumstances, had renounced their nationality, should gladly seize this opportunity to remember their attachment to the country of their birth*, and thus give a visible and tangible token thereof."

On July 11, 1913, the *Deutscher Anzeiger für Antwerpen* published the two following dispatches from M. de Bary and from the Chancellor of the Empire in reply—

"*Antwerp, July* 2, 1913.

"To the Chancellor of the Empire,

"von Bethmann-Hollweg.

"EXCELLENCY,

"In view of the mighty task involved in the strengthening of the Empire's defences, the Germans of Antwerp heartily congratulate your Excellency, and hope that, as the result of these powerful armaments, so capable of commanding respect, our country may long enjoy the blessings of peace."

"*Kiel, July* 3, 1913.

"I sincerely thank, for their friendly telegram of congratulation, the Germans of Antwerp who, by their voluntary contributions to the additional expenses incurred in strengthening the army, have given so remarkable an example of faithful attachment to the Fatherland. In expressing the hope that these armaments will assure for Germany a lasting peace, you thereby indicate the real object of the mighty sacrifices our nation is making for its military defence.[1]

"REICHSKANZLER VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG."

[1] Just as the publication of the list of patrons of the German General School aroused keen indignation in Antwerp, so the list of the subscribers to the War Fund would have

On the day of the declaration of war against France the *Deutscher Anzeiger* printed a special edition, the sale of which was prohibited by order of the Consul-General of Germany. At the foot of the page was a note stating that Belgium had nothing to fear from Germany. How did the Consul-General know before the ultimatum to Belgium that such a declaration could not be made?

IV

THE LANGUAGE QUARREL

It is acknowledged to-day that an active part was taken by Germany in that unhappy conflict of tongues which divided our country in so critical a fashion. The leaders of the Flemish movement were certainly not all Pan-Germanists, but some were—and still are—so maddened against France that they would have preferred to fling their country into the arms of Germany, and even to blot out the Flemish literature, lan-

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produced a general revolt of the public conscience. Unfortunately we were unable to procure the list in question, which evidently includes naturalised Belgians as well as Germans by birth.

guage and culture, than to hear French spoken any longer in Flanders.[1]

Hatred founded on prejudices so unjustifiable is always an ignoble attitude to adopt. Accordingly, simple minds were tempted to believe that so ferocious a hate might have some justification.

The method is quite a German one. There is no other country in the world in which men's consciences can more easily be bought than in Germany.

But, in spite of everything, we cannot believe, knowing the proverbial rectitude of our compatriots, that even a single one of them allowed himself to be bought. Let me repeat it: it was mainly the hatred of France, a hatred of which one can form no adequate idea, which pushed certain leaders of the Flemish movement towards Germany. Between the Walloons and the Flemish, too, ill-feeling existed, the former being near relations of the French; but immediately before the war, perhaps with an intuition of the coming danger, the bitter antagonism suddenly calmed down.

[1] Every year, especially in Antwerp, the anniversary of the Battle of the Golden Spurs was celebrated, in which the Flemish commoners overcame the French chivalry, in 1302.

The Flamandisation [1] of the University of Ghent was being discussed. The Flemings became suddenly divided on this question, upon which hitherto they seemed to have been agreed. A large number of level-headed Flemings opposed the exaggerated ideas of the others. Had they come to feel that the exclusively anti-French "Flamingantism" [2] was not based on solid reason? And yet this anti-French movement in Flanders has long been in existence: since Willems, who happened to raise his glass in honour of the German Fatherland, the "exaltés" have been many; and, curiously enough, they were not always Flemish.

Van den Hove, who in 1844 brought out a book in which he tried to effect an identification of Flemish with Low German on the basis of a new orthography, was a Walloon who had thought it advisable to translate his patronymic of Delecourt . . lest the latter should suggest a Gallic origin!

The Pan-Germanist review, *De Broederband,* which appeared about the same time, was also

[1] The gradual substitution of Flemish for the French used at present in the University of Ghent, as it is in the other universities of Belgium.

[2] Flemish movement.

managed by a Walloon named Jottrand, whom the famous Professor Kinker had converted to the good cause. His principal collaborator was a German, F. A. Wolf. It is especially the linguistic point of view which has presented most attractions to the partisans of a *rapprochement* between Germany and Flanders.

In reality there are about as many points of contact between Flemish and German as there are between French and Spanish.

The two latter have a common ancestor, Latin, and the two former have another, Frankish, from which came Dietsch, giving birth to Flemish, and Low German, which in its corrupted form became present-day German. Traces of both derivatives are found in Flanders as well as in Germany. Thus it is untrue to claim, as is commonly done, that Flemish is but a German *patois*. It is not a prodigal child whose return into the family may be expected; it developed itself freely and independently, as the German philologist Mullenhof acknowledges when he says that the Flemish language is nearer than any other to its Frankish origin. Attempts at fusion between the two languages have never come to anything.

From the ethnical point of view the German-Flemish relationship is even less admissible. If our country, in the early ages of its history, has undergone French and Germanic invasions, France has had a similar fate. There the Gallo-Roman type has been deeply modified by various influences: through Franks, Normans, Burgundians. Does this create a serious relationship between French and Germans? We shall be told that the Latin civilisations have left a deeper impression on the ethnical development of France than on that of Flemish countries, where there was considerable Saxon immigration, especially under Charlemagne. But does this Saxon immigration, which played a preponderant rôle in the formation of the British nationality, bring more closely together the modern German and Englishman? Nor must it be forgotten that the autochthonous element, previous to the Aryan invasions, has remained very strong in the Flemish. Its representatives are small, round-headed and dark-complexioned, and are distinguished from their compatriots by greater exuberance, activity and powers of assimilation. At the Geographical Congress of Antwerp, in 1871, M. Huyttens

reckoned the numerical importance of this element at half the inhabitants of the Liège district and a third of those of the Flemish. An ethnical basis of such importance would suffice to create a nationality of our own, even if it were to be admitted that centuries of common vicissitudes and collective ideals had failed to do so.

Because we dared to write in this way, though with all the reserve and moderation it was our duty to manifest, in an attempt to avoid irritating discussions amongst the Belgians, so remarkably united after the atrocious aggression to which their country had been subjected, we have exposed ourselves to attack on the part of some of the heads of the Flemish movement. These remarkable patriots, however, waited until the Germans were in Antwerp, before manifesting their wrath! They violently attacked *La Métropole*, affirming their right to admire Germany, and reproaching those who did not share their sympathies with having brought about the terrible anxieties we are suffering by thinking of nothing but the fate of *la belle France!*

Such odious language explains the German political action in Belgium and exposes its full significance.

Fortunately, the few individuals capable of incurring the suspicion of desiring to show themselves agreeable to the enemy by making such declarations, are a very small minority whose influence will in the future be annihilated by the determination of Belgium to be duped no longer.

The awful lesson of the war will draw closer the ancient ties that unite the Flemish and the Walloons and put an end to the evil influence of Pan-Germanism.

The last pitiful attempt to bring division amongst the Belgians has been made during the German occupation of Belgium.

It is worth mentioning, as it constitutes an irrefutable proof of the relations which certain Pan-Germanists have succeeded in establishing with certain "Flamingants."

The thing was inevitable. Antipathy to France was destined to fling certain feeble individuals into the arms of the Pan-Germanists, who, knowing the Flemish claims, aided and encouraged them. One of their number, Harald A. Graevell, a collaborator in the review *Van Nu en Straks*, founded by young Flemish *litterati*, whilst Marshal von der Goltz was

governing Belgium, thought that the time had come to inspire Flemish sympathy for Germany. And that after Louvain, Aerschot, Malines and Termonde!

When war broke out Harald A. Graevell happened to be in Switzerland, where, as a Belgian *confrère* said, he was doubtless engaged in obscure and dishonourable espionage work. He was living at Lausanne, at the pension "Leidenfrost," 32, Boulevard de Grancy.

This is to indicate that the information here divulged was obtained from the very fountain head.

Graevell wrote to Marshal von der Goltz, sending him the text of a proclamation that he suggested should be addressed to the Flemish people, and also a programme whose aim was the establishment of journals, the organisation of lectures and libraries, the diffusion of German books and more especially of a *Germanenbuch* intended to make the German people better known.

This ridiculous proclamation deserves to be set forth here; it is a pretentious blend of ignorance and bad faith—

Proclamation to the Flemish People

The God of hosts has made His decision. As at the time of the Battle of the Golden Spurs, which you still celebrate as your national fête, the French people have been overcome by German might. Their supremacy in Europe is destroyed for ever.

It is now the hour to put forward the unsatisfied Flemish claims, and to insist that the injustice of ages be atoned for. No longer must you remain the stepchildren (*Stiefkinder*) of the family of Germanic peoples. No, the noble nation that produced a Charlemagne, who died 1100 years ago, has the right to a language and a civilisation of its own. The people that has brought to perfection such great matters in art does not need others to show it what it is capable of accomplishing.

Your aspirations shall be satisfied. The dream of your fathers shall become a reality. God's will is: Flanders for the Flemish!

The reign of falsity must cease. For a free and highly gifted people to tolerate intellectual slavery is false. And this has been the case hitherto. French influence has seen to it that you could not develop as you ought to have done. Every noble manifestation of the soul of the Flemish people has been suppressed, you have been most cunningly injured and deceived as regards true progress. Study your history, read the evolution of the Flemish movement and you will see, with the utmost indignation, how you have ever been lured on by the Roman element.

When, at the time of the Great Revolution, the French came into your country to drive out the Austrians whose troops, according to your wish, had defended you for centuries against the rapacity of vicious French kings, they exploited you to the extent of taking away your very garments, and when you wished to show your indignation they beat down the "brigands" like mad dogs. Twenty thousand Flemish heroes fell at that time for *their religion, their honour and their liberty*. In the eyes of the French, however, they were "brigands." And when the French braggarts carried off to Paris the precious pictures of the Flemish school, they spoke of this theft to the French nation in the following words: These pictures have been brought to a place worthy of them and capable at last of appreciating them. But assignats (paper money of the French Republic), almost worthless in France, were imposed on the Belgian people at their full nominal value. In this way did this people of "liberty, equality, fraternity" exploit the poor nation, and that at a time when it belonged already to the "great" nation. Such was the liberty they brought you.

On the battlefields you had to shed your blood for French "glory," and it was only in 1815, just a hundred years ago, that you were delivered from tyranny by the *brave Prussian troops*.

To-day the latter are again in your country, to help you once more.

Welcome them as men who are to free you from the Roman yoke! They are your brothers, children of the same mother Germany, who, at the time of

Charlemagne, were one with you and only became strangers at a far later period.

New times are coming. *A Germanic age has begun.* All Germans must combine against foreign influence. The Germans of the Empire are fighting for you in this desperate struggle against Romanism and Slavism. Be grateful and help them in every way you can.

"Zij zullen hem niet temmen, den fierem vlamsch [*sic*] leeuw!" (They shall not tame him, the proud Flemish lion!) says your popular hymn. The black lion on a field of gold, such is your sign of victory. "Wat walsch is valsch is, schlaagt alle dood" (What is Walloon is false, kill all) was your battle-cry.

This cry must ring out once more to-day. Again must the old lion of Flanders spring up and show the world that he can still strike. He must drive back to his dunghill the Gallic cock which is crowing once more, unwilling to acknowledge that another is stronger than himself. The Flemish people must be capable of creating a popular civilisation peculiar to its own peril. It must have a *Germanic University* at Ghent. It must have a Minister of Public Instruction of its own. German must become the language of command in the army, and Flemish the only official language in administration, education and Law, Church and Press. There must be a Flemish Archbishop officiating by the side of a Walloon Archbishop.

In Switzerland requirements of this kind have long been admitted as quite natural; why things cannot

be the same in Belgium is incomprehensible. The Belgian people boasts of its democratic institutions; but reality must be made to correspond with theory.

The future belongs to the German people, that will once more become imperial, as in the times of Charles V, your popular prince. The Netherland tongue will be introduced into the higher schools of the Empire. It is the literary language of all the Low Germans (Niederdeutschen). All cultured Flemish will be able to speak High German (Hochdeutsch). The two linguistic expressions of the German mind, enjoying equal rights, are of the utmost importance for our intellectual development. Long enough have we been under the tuition of the Romans and the French, we now intend to create *a Germanic culture of our own.*

For this task the Flemish are necessary. If they are left out, an important link will be missing in the chain.

It would be a real "triumphal entry" if German culture were definitely to be introduced into Flanders and the Flemish lion were to take his place by the side of the eagle of the Empire.

"Vlaanderen den Leeuw!" Flanders with a German mind! Flanders forward in the world! The Flemish flag on every sea! Flemish poetry and art esteemed throughout the world. Side by side with the Germans of the Empire and the Austrians, allied with Holland, eminent in intellectual culture and well-being, invincible in rectitude, purity and might: such is the picture of the brilliant future to which all true Flemish should aspire.

"Om dat ik en Vlaming bin" (Because I am Flemish).

"Hail to thee, Mighty Germany!" (Alldeutschland heil), "Germanje boven al" (Germany over all!).

The projects of Harald A. Graevell also comprised an entire programme of the civil, military and religious reorganisation of Belgium.

The peculiarity, indeed, of the German *litterati* is that they are omniscient.

All these projects, dated from Lausanne, September 27, 1914, were manifestly regarded as inopportune by Marshal von der Goltz, for the Germans, doubtless enlightened by the heroic attitude of the men of Flanders as well as of Wallonia, destroyed as many towns and villages in Flanders as they did in the land of the Walloons.[1]

The *Observer* of December 20, 1914, published under the title *Dream of Deutschtum* some correspondence from Amsterdam, relating to the Graevell documents—

"British agents have intercepted and for-

[1] It must, however, be noted that the Pan-Germanists residing in Belgium were proposed by the German Governor-General of Belgium for the Order of the Crown of Prussia of the 4th class. Among them is H. A. Graevell.

warded to the Belgian Government at Havre a document which was destined for Marshal von der Goltz, German Governor of Belgium.

"This interesting document bears witness to the desperate, if maladroit and belated, efforts of the Germans to conciliate the Belgians, cause them to forget their abominable crimes, and prepare them for annexation. Written by a German who lived many years in Belgium, the document deals with the Flemish movement. It is well known how acute the question of language became in this domestic quarrel between the Walloons, who speak French, and the Flemings, who speak Flemish.

"'In Vlaanderen Vlaamsch' (Flemish in Flanders!) was the principal war-cry of the Flemish. They demanded the right to have Flemish spoken in the civil administration, in the courts and in the schools in their particular part of the country, and to a great extent this demand was granted. Unfortunately the wilder spirits wished to have Flemish rank with French throughout the whole of Belgium. Further, many, forgetting that French had the first place in the towns of Flanders for centuries past, gave to their demands an anti-French character.

There were even those who, not sufficiently mistrustful of a certain insidious German propagandism, allowed themselves to be recruited in the Pan-German crusade.

"The author of the report to Marshal von der Goltz, who gave an exposition of the Flemish movement, advised that the Flemings should not be as harshly treated by the Germans as were the Walloons, but, on the contrary, should be treated with tact and gentleness, and that their linguistic affinities with German should be taken into account."

V

THE SITUATION AT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR

The Results

In the preceding chapters we have set forth the manner in which the Germans, more especially in Antwerp, gained considerable and—let us affirm it aloud—unjustifiable influence. They tried to create the belief that Antwerp was a German port, whereas the Union Jack was far more in evidence than all other flags combined.

There were ten thousand of them, and whilst the British traffic was confined to maritime commerce, the Germans gradually substituted themselves for the Belgians in the brokerage of merchandise, the export trade and the Customs. They invaded the various departments of the Chamber of Commerce to such an extent as to have an overwhelming majority in many of them. This explains why, in contradiction of the statutary regulation, M. Corty, German President of the Chamber of Commerce, now deceased, had his mandate renewed, under pretext that a thorough investigation into the modifications to be introduced regarding the port, required continuous efforts. Thus, the vital interests of Antwerp, *i. e.* of the whole country itself, were partly dependent on a German!

Along with him the chief of the German colony at Antwerp, Herr Albert von Bary, was very influential from a purely local point of view. He was seriously designated the German burgomaster of Antwerp. He was also the representative of the Norddeutscher Lloyd, Consul-General of Italy, a member of numerous philanthropical societies and interested in many financial enterprises. Little or nothing was

ever done without calling upon him for assistance.

If we add that few great financial establishments of Antwerp and the district escaped, if not the direct control, at all events the reproach of having Germans on their board of management, we shall still better understand the extent of German influence. Whereas Brussels had just seen the Deutsche Bank and the Dresdner Bank successively obtain a footing in the city,[1] Antwerp enjoyed the felicity of having an additional bank in the Disconto Gesellschaft. It is the peculiarity of the German that he reserves for his compatriots such affairs as he cannot deal with himself. In Belgium he met with generous hospitality. In return the German employed for his own needs none but Germans, and obtained his supplies as far as possible from Germans: we had bakers, brewers, large and important stores, numerous cafés, tailors, cutlers, printers and butchers, all German. Such a state of things

[1] In 1911, when the Deutsche Bank was established in the rue d'Aremberg, Brussels, all the German firms of Belgium received orders from their head offices in Germany to withdraw their funds from the Belgian banks, including the National Bank, and put them for security in the Deutsche Bank.

contributed to give the foreigner who landed at Antwerp, more especially, the impression that he was in a German town.

There were Germans of Antwerp who negotiated goods sold to Germany; Germans who exported German goods and gradually also Belgian goods, even marked "Made in Germany"; Germans who frequently represented great British insurance, shipping and commercial companies! Must not the financial deals resulting from this traffic be made by German banks? Naturally.

Of course, in the middle classes especially, this methodical encroachment, which was an obstacle in the way of active, well-educated and intelligent Belgians, was looked upon as unjust; yet nothing was done. Politicians themselves were too frequently restrained, by considerations of personal interest, from taking up the defence of their countrymen. They rather exerted themselves to join with those who extolled the influence the Germans had acquired in Antwerp. But for Germany, we should be nowhere! On the contrary, all complaints must be stifled, for fear the Germans should show themselves ill-disposed—or use threats!

To such a pitch had we come! And it was much the same throughout the whole country. The Germans found not only supporters in many Belgians who had been skilfully involved in German affairs, but also kindred allies in all the naturalised Belgians and their descendants. For these latter had rights in Belgium, though they observed all their obligations and duties towards Germany. You cannot naturalise a German.[1] The very aim of the societies which group together the Germans in foreign lands is not only to keep alive the German spirit, but also to bring the naturalised within the German fold. Thus the latter never lose contact with the Fatherland. They send their children there to be educated. This explains why, after several generations, so many naturalised persons remain fervent Germans.

How can we help seeing how terrible is the danger involved in granting naturalisation to such a people?

Add to this permanent internal activity the

[1] France has come to see, once for all, let us hope, that the German is not like any other man. She has just revoked all naturalisations that have been granted in the course of the last five years (see p. 95. The appeal for the subscription to the war milliard).

effects of German competition and of the German industrial combinations organised solely for the methodical destruction, in the coveted foreign market, of already established industries—witness the ruin of the electrical industry in Belgium—the practice of dumping, the application of special railway tariffs for exported products; thus we can understand why Belgium, so active and industrial, so open to competition, has seen German imports increase, so largely to the detriment of her own activities.

The following are the figures of the German Zollverein for the years—

1911	francs 972,609,000
1912	do. 1,041,500,000

Is not this situation significant? Still, the objection will be urged: why have not the public authorities been aroused, in default of public opinion, to such a state of things?

Here we refer back to the reply we have already given. The situation is perceptibly the same in England. Has any one ever spoken in England of the German peril? And even when we are actually at war, as regards boycotting German subjects, is anything more attempted

than a petty persecution of barbers and hotel waiters? Why is it possible for so many Germans to walk freely in the streets of London and elsewhere, and why are there still so many Germans on the Stock Exchange? [1]

The confiding spirit of public authorities in Belgium was such that, even though we had firms like Cockerill for manufacturing cannon, not only did the orders go to Krupp's firm,[2] but our rifles, manufactured at Liége, it is true, were none the less Mausers, and even the electrical equipment of our latest defensive works and our railways were German, whilst our own electricity works had no orders!

Confidence in Belgium was so absolute that authorisation had even been given to a certain German reserve officer, Herr von Mallinckrodt, an inhabitant of Capellan near the fort of that town and within the walls of Antwerp, to set up an open-air bath in the foss of the fort!

In very truth, Belgium was anæsthetised. In this fact alone we may find a striking refutation

[1] See the London newspapers of May 1915.

[2] This is a proof that Belgium had no military engagement of any kind with another Power.

of the accusations brought against our country by Germany in regard to her neutrality.

One might even say that if Belgium inclined the balance in one direction at all, it was in favour of Germany. And the latter, after the benefits her countrymen have received from us, has acted most vilely (though we are not astonished at it) in attempting, after the event, to raise doubts regarding the attitude of Belgium herself!

Moreover, not a single German amongst all who occupied positions in Belgium enabling them to bear impartial testimony has so far thought of raising his voice either against the violation of Belgian territory, or against the barbarism which overwhelmed Belgium, or even against the falsehoods with which Germany endeavours to deceive the world.

VI

PREMEDITATION

There is treason of another kind, however, which must at once be brought before the tribunal of History. I refer to the long-pre-

meditated intention on the part of Germany to invade and conquer Belgium. It will be evident that there has been a close connection between the pernicious scientific activities of the Germans in Belgium and the objective of the German Government.

The war has shown us the *raison d'être* of the strategic lines constructed by Germany on the Belgian frontier. Nobody troubled much about this before, so that recently the prolongation of one of them as far as Stavelot in Belgium was permitted.

There are certain other indications, besides, of the German plan for the invasion of Belgium. Here is one of them. *La Métropole* of September 18, 1914, published the following letter—

"*Brée, Sept.* 11, 1914.[1]

"To the Editor of *La Métropole*, Antwerp.

"SIR,

"As you are aware, the Germans have flung a bridge over the Meuse at Lixhe-Visé.

"Perhaps, however, you may not know that the *numbered pieces of timber, sawn in regular dimensions*, which have been used in making

[1] Brée is a small Belgian town, not far from Dalheim.

this bridge have been for the past two years lying at Dalheim Station [the German frontier on the line from Antwerp to Gladbach].

"This timber was massed up in huge piles, and no one knew what it was intended for until it was embarked for Visé, viâ Aix-la-Chapelle.

"I should be glad if you would inform your readers of this fact; it shows once more that the whole thing has been premeditated.

"Yours very sincerely,

"JANSSENS-FRANSMAN."

Amongst other proofs of lengthy premeditation, need we cite the numerous discoveries of concrete beds set up either in country houses belonging to the Germans, as at Dave, near Namur, or to the north of Maubeuge, or at Nieuport, or, again, on tennis courts like those near Louvain and on the coast?

There is also a rumour that not far from Dunkirk were found two great pieces of ordnance in a German works, though this needs official confirmation.

Here is still another fact: wonder has probably been expressed at the extraordinary audacity of the fording of the Meuse at Anseremme (near

Dinant) by the German army. It appears that the Teutons, suddenly crossing the river, surprised a portion of the French troops. The bridges over the Meuse were destroyed, but at Anseremme there is a weir, intended for keeping the water in check. The Germans blew up the weir, the result being that the water began to sink, and a passage across was possible on a bed of shingle, the existence of which they certainly knew of before.

It is not our intention to enter upon a special investigation of German espionage in Belgium. All the same, premeditation is evident from the numerous witnesses to the fact that the German armies were conducted by persons who had previously been seen in the country selling various articles. Amongst these may be mentioned the somewhat onerous sale of scythes and razors.

In this connection, M. Depuydt-Vandeput, writing from Ghistelles on August 29, related the following fact—

"The Uhlans who arrived at Lichtervelde and Thourout have been stationed there. At Lichtervelde, well-known farmers and horse-dealers have recognised German jobbers amongst these

Uhlans. At Thourout, surprising to relate, an Uhlan picked up a child four or five years of age, set him on his horse and called him by his name. The mother, who kept a coffee and boarding house, begged the soldier not to hurt the child. 'Don't be afraid, M——; but don't you know me?' Saying which, he raised his helmet. Then the woman was amazed at recognising in the Uhlan the dealer in scythes who had boarded with her the year before."

There are other stories of the same kind. Uhlans speak Flemish, the dialect of these parts, admirably. And this wretched scythe-dealer was a man of rank in the army!

Amongst the leaders of troops recognised in Hesbaye and Condroz were Germans well acquainted with the district, through having come there as travellers for supplying beetroot seeds.

Always the same thing: espionage carried on by business men!

The peasants of Hérenthout tell us the same story; they saw a lieutenant approaching them who in peace times had been a representative of a firm selling scythes—

"Don't you recognise me? I sold you a scythe last year."

The same rascal showed his personal animosity by placing a chalk mark, indicating sentence of death, on the houses of those whom he wished to punish.

Are we to continue doing business with such people?

The paper *Le XXe siècle* noted with uneasiness some time ago that 38,000 military maps of our country had been bought by the Germans last year.

At Schoonaerde, a small industrial locality on the river Scheldt, between Termonde and Ghent, was a sinister-looking building on the bank of the river; it was a German factory with scarcely a window in it. During the siege of Antwerp people began to wonder what might be going on in the place. On inquiry there was discovered a metallic bridge, ready to be flung over the river from the right bank. This was the bank occupied by the Germans, the left being guarded by the Belgians. And, once flung across, this bridge might have been moved either up or down the river to the spot desired!

When the Germans reached the Belgian capital, one of the first things they did was to enter the various Ministries. The ushers were

at their post. At the Ministry of War M. Lambert was conducting the officers to where they wished to go. Suddenly one of them turned to him with the words: "You are M. Lambert, are you not? Do you not recognise me?"

M. Lambert did recognise him as an agent for a so-called Belgian electrical company, the offshoot of a German company which had been entrusted with certain works in these buildings! And the officer begged M. Lambert to let him show his companions the way, which he knew quite well!

It will be remembered that during the siege of Liége General Leman was attacked in his offices, right in the middle of the town, by some German officers who stepped from a motor-car. Wonder was expressed as to how these German officers had succeeded in crossing the Belgian lines. Everything leads one to believe that these officers had been in Liége itself, where they had armed themselves, and that the crowds, who took them to be English, had been collected by accomplices.

M. Ed. Rogister wrote on August 27 informing us, besides, that at Liége, in the rue de la Hesbaye, there were 10,000 German rifles. The

Commissary of Police of the 4th Division (rue Hullos at Liége) had called upon him and some others to proceed to where these rifles were kept and make them unfit for use.

In the first days of August all the newspapers had announced already that 100,000 German rifles had been found in the Impasse Jonckeu in this same town.

Our attention has also been drawn to the strange constitution of several Antwerp firms engaged in the corn business.

Going over the list of these firms, we were surprised to note how many German names there were amongst them. Whilst one partner retains his German nationality, the other eagerly demands to become a Belgian. We might name a firm, one of whose partners, being naturalised, had a post in the local Civic Guard (thus being privileged to participate in certain excursions, with the object of visiting some of our defensive works), whereas the other partner is bearing arms against us.

Here are a series of additional facts, occurring about the time of the declaration of war or shortly before.

From *June* 15 onwards there were very few

closed German carriages on the Belgian railway lines.

The large German shops throughout the land cleared out their "end of the season" stocks *a month* earlier than was their wont, the usual time being the first fortnight in July.

At the end of June some sound German firms found excuses not to settle their accounts.

On *July* 31 Germany ceased the dispatch of telegrams to Belgium.

The Deutsche Bank and the Dresdner Bank [1] sent out circulars, *dated July*, advising their German clients to sell their stocks.

More remarkable still, the last day of July, some days before the declaration of war, was the day on which the bonds of the Rumanian Treasury fell due. The Antwerp branch of the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin had been ordered to pay the coupons of this loan. The coupons were not paid!

M. Popescu, commercial *attaché* of the General

[1] Sir Edward Holden at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the London City and Midland Bank, Ltd., declared: "*On the 18th of July last*, the Dresdner Bank caused a great commotion by selling its securities, and by advising its clients to sell theirs."

(The Austrian ultimatum to Serbia was only sent off on July 23, and war was declared on the 28th.)

Consulate of Rumania at Antwerp, having immediately made a detailed report to the Rumanian Legation at Brussels, the latter referred the matter to its Government.

His Excellency M. T. G. Djuvara, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Rumania in Belgium, who was at Antwerp on September 17, 1914, was interviewed by us. He made the following declaration, word for word—

"The Rumanian Government issued on November 12, 1913, a 4½ per cent. gold loan of 250,000,000 francs, the main object of which was the payment or the exchange of Treasury Bonds. The syndicate of bankers represented by the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin was charged with this deal. The Rumanian Government, then, received from the Disconto Gesellschaft 180,000,000 francs, and 70,000,000 francs remained to be placed at the disposal of the holders of the Treasury Bonds, the payment of which was to take place on *July* 31, 1914.

"In confirmation of this fact an advice appeared on July 29, 1914, in the *Anvers-Bourse*, inviting the holders to present themselves at the Antwerp branch of the Disconto Gesellschaft

and at the Banque Central Anversoise, where the said bonds would be paid as from August 1, at the rate of exchange at sight on Paris.

"If, as a result of the events which followed one another in rapid succession, neither the Antwerp branch of the Disconto nor the Banque Central Anversoise was able to receive from the Disconto of Berlin the funds needed for this payment, this was not the fault of the Rumanian Government.

"The Disconto was wholly responsible. Moreover, following on the intervention of the Commission of the Antwerp Bourse, I informed the Royal Government of the delay in settling this affair."

It was a matter of 20,000,000 francs, which the German banks did not pay when the amount became due! The Disconto regarded it merely as another "scrap of paper," and so did not trouble themselves about it.

No scruples in international affairs, no scruples when dealing with people who show hospitality to their own countrymen, no scruples in commercial matters: the cup is full!

PART IV

CONCLUSION

THE first conclusion to be drawn from this awful war is that we must regard as extremely serious all those writings of German authors that threaten alike the peace of Europe and that of the whole of mankind.[1]

[1] See Reimer and F. Bley, who declare that the Germans are the first race in Europe, and that all others must obey their rule, to insure which, the German people must as far as possible destroy other peoples and races (Pan-Germanist Germany).

Thorman and Goetsch say: "Within a few years the world will see the German flag flying over 86,000,000 Germans, who will govern a territory containing 136,000,000 Europeans."

In *La Grande Allemagne et l'Europe Centrale en 1950* (Berlin, 1905) we find the following prediction: "No doubt the Germans will not be the only people of the new empire thus constituted, but they alone will govern, they alone will exercise political rights, they alone will serve in army and navy, and will have power to conquer the world. Thus, as in the Middle Ages, they will give the impression of being a super-nation. All the same, they will allow strangers under their rule to carry on minor employment in the State. We proclaim that our nation has a right not only to the North Sea, but also to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. With this end in view, we shall annex in succession Denmark,

We owe Germany the excuse that she had warned us again and again. Consequently we must blame ourselves and those amongst us who undertook the task of lulling us into a false security. The "ostrich" policy has proved a failure.

After the example set us, we have no longer the right to believe in a pacific Germany.[1] Germany is bent on conquering the world by such means as the laws governing international relations give her; a slow but sure conquest by economic penetration, which must be confirmed by means of arms.

Since everything, therefore, is reduced to a question of self-interest, it is our business to find out whether or not we intend to be under Germany's heel, to do only *her* good pleasure.

We have already answered in the negative, seeing that we have offered armed resistance to Germany's claims.

All the same, we find that too many people thoughtlessly admit that we must resume with

---

Holland, Belgium, Franche-Comte, Northern Switzerland, Livonia, Trieste, Venice, and finally that part of France north of the Somme and the Loire."

[1] The essential function of a State is war (H. von Treitschke).

Germany the commercial and political relations of the past.

To our mind, nothing is more dangerous than to disseminate such an idea. After the account we have given of German methods, to be willing to renew the former ties with Germany is to insure for her the domination of the whole world. In that case, the present war would be both an absurdity and a crime.

Were it admitted that Germany, after the war, be allowed to recommence her system of pacific invasion, why should so many thousands of human lives be sacrificed to no purpose?

Don't come and tell us that Germany will not try again. She will try again, for her whole training and preparation demands it.

Don't tell us that she will be too exhausted; our reply will be that it was to Prussia, so wretched and dejected after Jena, that Fichte delivered his famous *Addresses to the German Nation*. And there is a great difference between Prussia then and Germany to-day!

We are told that Prussian militarism will be utterly destroyed.

Suppose we admit this. Shall we thereby have destroyed the aggressive genius of Ger-

many? Here, too, let us remember the *Addresses to the German Nation;* let us not forget Treitschke. Though Germany may no longer have her guns, she will have her clerks, her banks and her industries. And we have seen to what purpose she uses them all. She does not regard commercial and industrial exchanges as means of ameliorating the lot of humanity, but rather as a means of domination.

Do we wish, in the near future, to be ruled by Germany, the "elect of nations"? Do we wish to submit to her control and be her servant?

Then we had better renew our past relations, make a *tabula rasa* of Germany's crimes, acknowledge that she committed them only to expedite the war and for humanitarian reasons, and finally admit that she wished for war in obedience to those providential (?) laws which decree that, throughout nature, the strong must crush the weak.

Are we, then, to be the weak?

On the other hand, if we claim that each civilised nation must contribute its share towards the harmonious development of mankind, that the genius peculiar to each people must expand

freely for the good of all, then the relations of the past with Germany must not be resumed.

Until she has given proofs that she will amend her ways, all needful measures must be taken against her for safeguarding nations and civilisation itself.

War must be continued after this war is over, until the time comes when the whole German nation, knowing the reason of the world's hostility, knows also what crimes she has been made to commit by false and pernicious teachers.

When that day comes, Germany will be civilised.[1]

But more than one German generation must suffer if the nation is to be brought to an understanding of the facts.

Now, what measures must be employed to make Germany reflect?

[1] Herr Possehl, a well-known German merchant, quoted by the *Liverpool Post* of March 24, 1915, wrote before the outbreak of war—

"I have become persuaded that the economical war, cruelly national, which England will wage against us on the sea, much more than a purely political war waged against France on land, will have the worst consequences for Germany, and throw us down on to our knees."

This is the sole means of obtaining peace.

All such measures as will check German expansion.

We have been told that war was to be henceforward a thing of the past, that for the future the rivalry between nations would be fought out on economic grounds.

Belgium's sufferings prove to us that a struggle on economic grounds, interpreted after the German fashion, is as dangerous as war. Germany, therefore, must not be left in a position to compete freely with other nations in the world's markets. She abuses the liberty granted to her.

Barriers must be placed all around her, heavy taxes must be imposed to prevent Germans from gaining undue supremacy in other countries. Germans must not be allowed naturalisation before the fifth generation, and their name should then be altered. The products of German industry must be boycotted. Resistance must be offered against all the methods by which German manufacturers, with the assistance of their Government, competed with their opponents; we are referring to "dumping" and to insurance cancelling of transports.

From the standpoint of the good of nations,

these methods are disloyal, since their only object is the *momentary* lowering of prices with a view to destroying competition.

In advocating these strict measures, not in view of reprisals, but rather of legitimate defence, we find ourselves in good company.

In the *Weekly Dispatch* of April 25, 1915, Robert Blatchford wrote—

"When the war began, German trade with the British Empire and the Allies ceased. Is there any reason why Germany should be allowed to resume that trade? None that I know of.

"It is not my business to make suggestions to Belgium, France, Russia and Serbia. But I will venture to say what is in my mind to my own nation.

"I propose that in future Germany shall not be allowed to trade with any part of the British Empire on the same terms as she did before the war.

"I do not say that Germany should not be allowed to trade at all with the British Empire, but that her trading should be made as difficult as possible. We owe no gratitude to Germany, and she has no right to expect favours or privileges again from us.

"We have had a double experience of Germany. On the field of battle she is an unscrupulous foe; in the field of business she is a cunning and relentless competitor. To show her any mercy in either field would be suicidal folly, and criminal ingratitude to the sons and daughters of the Empire, who are aiding us in crushing the monster of Prussian militarism.

"German goods that attempt to enter Britain and its overseas Dominions after the war must be faced with a tariff so high, that they will be unable to compete in price with home-made articles produced under proper conditions of labour. And the vessels that carry such goods must also be regarded as imports, and pay adequate customs duty wherever and whenever they enter a British port the world over.

"The British Empire must be reserved for Britons and their Allies. The British Empire has no room to spare for foes."

The same idea, expressed more strongly, had already appeared in an article signed E. R. T. in the *Standard* of April 12, 1915—

"There was a danger that after the war Germany would be forgiven—that we should lapse

again into our old generous, unsuspecting mood; that the Serene Highnesses would again dominate our society; that people with names ending in 'stein' and 'bach' would again 'boss' our high finance; that the German waiter and barber would once more cringe and spy in every London and seaside hotel. German peaceful penetration is a good deal worse than the German armed menace. For we have pretty well proved that the German soldier is, apart from his machinery, not quite the man the British, French, Russian, Boer, Japanese, Hungarian, Belgian or Serbian soldier is. But at lying, spying and dirty tricks of every kind the enemy is not only supreme, but unapproached. It is a case of Eclipse first and the rest nowhere. A nation whose Emperor will personally tout for an order for a firm he holds shares in, who will take advantage of a family visit to play the spy on England, and who can write a vulgarly familiar letter to a British First Lord with a view to influencing his policy—a nation which loves and reverences the Cad enthroned is dangerous always if treated with blind toleration.

"Our good-nature, indolence, half-contemptuous disregard, whatever it is, might have

survived the plain evidence of the atrocities habitually practised by Germans on civilians, men, women and children. It is truly astonishing how prone some of our people are to make excuses for the enemy. They even go so far as to hint that the unhappy French and Belgians may have had sinister motives for getting shot, and plundered, and dishonoured."

If such language is used in England, what will be said in Belgium and France, in Russia and Italy? What will be said, in short, by those who have suffered for German crimes in their own country?

Is it necessary to say that the Belgians have learnt, with keen joy, through one of their ministers, that Belgium intends to pass a decree preventing Germans from living in Belgium?

In Belgium, as elsewhere, there will be certain mentally unstable persons who will take alarm at such rigorous measures. But what is this in comparison with what so many Belgians have suffered?

Is peace to blot out all at once the memory of German horrors? Let those who are deluded in this way make no mistake. After the war

there will be in Belgium an energetic and active majority. There will be the whole of the army and all who have—or had—sons in it, and these will be firmly determined to see to it that apologists for disgraceful deeds shall keep silence. Their names are legion who will hold aloft the torch of memory and not allow themselves to be moved to compassion by a Germany, which will be all the more abject in her humiliation from having been insolent in her pride, a Germany all the more loathsome in her appeals to the magnanimity of others from having been so cowardly and cruel herself.

Not to them will any one come and say that Germany is a great people, for they know all the blemishes and stains on the name of that country; they will remember but one thing—that this people, great in numbers only, is a people to be feared.

To go and preach kindness to soldiers who have been horrified spectators of German atrocities[1] would be playing into the hands of the Germans. The latter, when the Allies come

[1] The conscience of every honest man is aware that blood alone can atone for blood. If this law is not observed, then we must doubt the very existence of justice on earth (H. von Treitschke).

to penetrate their territory, will plead for mercy, unless, with a degree of cunning intended to victimise the Allies, they attempt to conclude terms of peace before a foreign soldier even enters upon German soil!

In conclusion, we, who do not believe in a perpetual peace, and in this respect agree with Treitschke,[1] consider that it is owing to her economic activity that Germany has been able to arm herself with the mighty forces we have witnessed. To give this activity an opportunity of rebirth is to forge the very weapons with which, in the near future, we should ourselves be struck down.

[1] Only in times of wantonness and degeneracy have there been dreams of perpetual peace.

THE END

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